Q.630.7
I ℓ 6b
no.787
cop.8

NOTICE: Return or renew all Library Materials! The *Minimum* Fee for each Lost Book is $50.00.

The person charging this material is responsible for its return to the library from which it was withdrawn on or before the **Latest Date** stamped below.

Theft, mutilation, and underlining of books are reasons for disciplinary action and may result in dismissal from the University.
To renew call Telephone Center, 333-8400

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

L161—O-1096

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS LIBRARY
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
AGRICULTURE

NOTICE: Return or renew all Library Meterials! The *Minimum* Fee for each Lost Book is $50.00.

The person charging this material is responsible for its return to the library from which it was withdrawn on or before the **Latest Date** stamped below.

Theft, mutilation, and underlining of books are reasons for disciplinary action and may result in dismissal from the University.
To renew call Telephone Center, 333-8400

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

L161—O-1096

630.7
Il6b
no. 787
cop. 2

U.S. Farmers' Preferences for

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY IN THE 1990S

North Central Regional Extension Publication 361, North Central Regional Research Publication 321, Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 787

Contributing Authors

This report was made possible through the cooperative efforts of agricultural economists in 21 states, working with the respective agricultural statistics service and state statistician, who assisted in drawing a representative sample of farm operators. The Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, also supported the project through a cooperative research agreement.

Many individuals contributed ideas from which the questions asked were derived. In each state, one or more agricultural economists supervised the sampling; the distribution of the questionnaire; and the editing, processing, and reporting of the data from which this composite report was assembled. Persons contributing to the research in the participating states were:

North Central

Illinois: Harold D. Guither, Extension Economist, Public Policy, and Professor, Agricultural Policy; Robert G. F. Spitze, Professor, Agricultural Policy; Alexander Amuah, Research Assistant, Agricultural Economics, University of Illinois.

Indiana: Bob F. Jones, Extension Economist, Public Policy, and Professor, Agricultural Economics; Marshall A. Martin, Associate Professor, Agricultural Economics; Dennis Shields, Graduate Research Assistant, Purdue University.

Iowa: Mark A. Edelman, Extension Economist, Public Policy; Paul Lasley, Extension Rural Sociologist, Iowa State University.

Kansas: Barry L. Flinchbaugh, Extension State Leader, Agricultural Economics; Andrew Barkley, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University.

Michigan: Vern Sorenson, Professor, Agricultural Economics; Laurie A. Cummings, Research Assistant, Michigan State University.

Missouri: Bruce Bullock, Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Missouri.

Nebraska: Lynn Lutgen, Extension Economist, Public Policy, University of Nebraska.

North Dakota: Norbert A. Dorow, Extension Economist; Roger Johnson, Professor, Agricultural Economics, North Dakota State University.

South Dakota: Larry Janssen, Professor, Economics, South Dakota State University.

Wisconsin: Ed Jesse, Professor, Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin.

West

Arizona: Harry Ayer, Extension Economist, Public Policy, University of Arizona.

Idaho: Neil L. Meyer, Extension Agricultural Economist, University of Idaho.

Washington: Robert L. Sargent, Extension Economist, Washington State University.

South

Alabama: J. Lavaughn Johnson, Head and Professor, Agricultural Economics, Extension Economist, Auburn University.

Arkansas: Robert E. Coats, Jr., Extension Economist, Management and Policy, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas.

Florida: Rodney L. Clouser, Associate Professor and Extension Economist, University of Florida.

Mississippi: David Schweikardt, Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics; Robert Martin, Extension Economist, Public Policy; Terry Baldridge, Research Associate, Mississippi State University.

Oklahoma: Larry Sanders, Extension Economist, Public Policy; Daryll Ray, Professor, Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University.

South Carolina: Harold M. Harris, Extension Agricultural Economist; Greg Arburn, Research Assistant, Clemson University.

Texas: Lawrence A. Lippke, Extension Economist, Management; Ronald D. Knutson, Extension Economist, Policy and Marketing; Edward G. Smith, Extension Economist, Marketing and Policy, Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Northeast

New York: Bernard F. Stanton and Andrew Novakovic, Professors, Agricultural Economics, Cornell University.

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Harry Baumes, Economic Research Service.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURE LIBRARY

U.S. Farmers' Preferences for

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY IN THE 1990S

Harold D. Guither
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

Bob F. Jones
Purdue University

Marshall A. Martin
Purdue University

Robert G.F. Spitze
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

and contributing authors from
participating states

November 1989

North Central Regional Extension Publication 361
North Central Regional Research Publication 321
Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin

AGRICULTURE LIBRARY
FEB 27 1991
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

TABLES

1. Participating States, Size of Sample, and Number of Usable Responses
2. Preferred Policy on Production and Price Supports after 1990
3. Preferences for Continuation of Target Prices
4. Preferred Loan Rate Policy
5. Preferences for Continuing Paid Land Diversion
6. Marketing Loan for Wheat, Feed Grains, and Soybeans
7. Preferred Type of Acreage Bases
8. Preference for Continuing Use of Payment-in-Kind (PIK) Certificates
9. Preference for Continuing Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve
10. Preferred Milk Price Policy
11. Preferred Discretion for the Secretary of Agriculture
12. Responses to the Statement that Future Farm Programs Should Give More Benefits to Farmers with Annual Sales under $250,000
13. Responses to the Statement that Government Programs Should Influence the Number and Size of Farms
14. Proposed Ways to Reduce Farm Commodity Program Expenditures
15. Opinions on Conservation Compliance to Obtain Program Benefits
16. Preferred Future Conservation Reserve Policy
17. Preferred Ways to Improve Soil Conservation and Water Quality
18. Responses to the Proposal that the Government Should Regulate Land Uses to Reduce Water Pollution
19. Preferred Policy on Crop Insurance
20. Preferred Policy on Payment Limitation
21. Preferred Policy on the Government's Loaning Money to Farmers with Limited Capital
22. Responses to the Proposal that Food Assistance Programs Should Be Increased to Meet the Needs of Those Eligible
23. Responses to the Proposal that the Government Should Increase Funding for Rural Development Programs
24. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Negotiate Worldwide Trade-Barrier Reductions
25. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Rely More on Bilateral Agreements
26. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Negotiate Domestic Farm Subsidy Reductions in Major Importing and Exporting Countries
27. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Join with Other Exporting Countries to Establish Production and Marketing Controls
28. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Provide More Funds for Food Aid to Hungry Nations
29. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Encourage Programs to Develop Additional Farmer-Financed Foreign Market Development Programs
30. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Continue the Export Enhancement Program and Other Export Subsidies
31. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Reduce Its Agricultural Import Barriers to Encourage Trade
32. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Assist Developing Countries Increase Their Agricultural Productivity and Trade Potential
33. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Give Selected Low Income Countries Preferred Entry to the U.S. Agricultural Market
34. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Cutting Every Budget Item by a Set Percentage
35. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Reducing the Defense Budget
36. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Reducing Social Programs, Excluding Social Security
37. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Reducing Social Security Payments
38. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Reducing Farm Program Expenditures
39. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Raising Taxes
40. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Increasing the Collection of Taxes Due the Federal Government
41. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Increasing User Fees for Government Services
42. Farm Program Participation in 1988
43. Age of Respondents
44. Last Year of School Completed by Respondents
45. Annual Gross Sales of Respondents
46. Family Income from Off-Farm Employment
47. Most Important Source of Cash Receipts in 1988
48. Respondents' Membership in Farm and Commodity Organizations

Contents

Introduction 1

Summary 2

Future Directions for Commodity Programs 4

- Target Prices 4
- Setting Loan Rates 4
- Paid Land Diversion 5
- Marketing Loans 5
- Acreage Bases 5
- Payment-in-Kind (PIK) Certificates 6
- Farmer-Owned Reserve (FOR) 6
- Future Dairy Policy 6
- Discretion for the Secretary of Agriculture 7
- More Support for Smaller Farms 7
- Influencing the Size and Number of Farms 7
- Cutting Farm Program Costs 8

Conservation Programs 9

- Required Conservation Plans for Program Benefits 9
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) 9
- Preferred Ways to Improve Soil Conservation and Water Quality 9
- Regulating Land Use to Reduce Water Pollution 9

Other Issues 10

- Crop Insurance 10
- Payment Limitation 10
- Credit to Farmers with Limited Capital 10
- Food Assistance Programs 10
- Rural Development 11

Agricultural Trade and Development 12

Federal Spending 15

Profile of Survey Respondents 16

Questionnaire 18

Tables 21

Acknowledgments

This project was organized by a subcommittee of the National Public Policy Education Committee, which annually plans the National Public Policy Education Conference sponsored by the Farm Foundation. The subcommittee which coordinated the state surveys was composed of Ed Bradley, University of Wyoming; David Lee, Cornell University; Larry Sanders, Oklahoma State University; and Harold D. Guither, University of Illinois, chairman. The North Central Public Policy Research Committee (NCR-151), represented by Robert G.F. Spitze, University of Illinois, chairman; Marshall A. Martin, Purdue University; and Daryll Ray, Oklahoma State University, worked with this committee in coordinating and organizing the project.

Special appreciation is extended to the state agricultural statisticians who assisted in selecting samples to ensure representative and reliable responses and in preparing and mailing the surveys.

Dennis Shields, graduate research assistant, Purdue University, provided invaluable contributions in analyzing and merging data for the regional and total composite responses. Connie Schwartz, computer programmer at Purdue University, wrote the software for data entry and assisted with statistical analysis.

Publication and distribution of this report was made possible through a cooperative agreement with the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

States Participating in the Survey

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kanasas
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New York
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Washington
- Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

Providing for programs through the 1990 crop year, the Food Security Act of 1985 sets the stage for new agricultural and food legislation in 1990. Hearings by Congressional committees and public meetings are providing opportunities for leaders of farm, agribusiness, and consumer organizations to express their views on the form this legislation should take.

To learn more about the preferences of individual farmers, agricultural economists in all major agricultural states were offered the opportunity to participate in this nationwide policy-preference research project. In the spring of 1989, surveys using the same questions were conducted in 21 states representing all regions of the nation. This study was a cooperative effort carried out by many people who believe that preferences of representative groups of farmers contribute to the educational and policy-making process.

The results of the study are potentially valuable to many different groups. For example, policy educators can more fully carry out their responsibilities if they know how farmers view specific issues. Leaders of farm and commodity organizations can learn if their resolutions and policy positions align with the views of a scientifically drawn sample of farmers. Agribusiness leaders and citizen groups can see if their positions match with farmers' views on the major issues. Policy makers in Congress and the executive branch of the federal government can use the information to determine if a consensus exists on specific policy issues.

Policy research workers in the participating states cooperated in developing a uniform questionnaire so that they could accurately identify similarities and differences of opinion across state lines and among regions of the country. Questions selected for the survey centered on the major issues that agricultural and food policy makers will face in 1990: policies on price and income support, conservation and the environment, credit, trade, food assistance, and fiscal matters.

After the questionnaire was developed, agricultural economists in each participating state independently carried out its portion of the survey. In all states, samples were drawn by or with the assistance of the state agricultural statistics service to attain a representative sample of the state's farmers. Special measures were taken to protect the privacy of all respondents, by keeping their individual responses confidential to comply with federal law.

Responses from each state were combined and weighted according to the number of farms reported in the 1987 Census of Agriculture, to obtain regional and total composite responses. For the few cases in which a specific question was not asked in one or two states, the composite is based on the number of states in which the question was asked. Because all regions of the country are represented in the survey, the weighted responses should be reasonably representative of all U.S. farmers.

Response rates varied from state to state. Of course, variation in follow-up technique may have contributed to the variability: in some states, after mail responses were received, telephone interviews were conducted with samples of those who did not respond by mail, thus giving additional reliability to the responses received. Overall, this report includes the responses of 12,717 farmers from 21 states (map, page iv; Table 1).

Tables showing the weighted responses from all respondents, as well as individual state responses, follow the text. The questionnaire used in the survey is reproduced on pages 18 through 20.

The 21 states where the survey was conducted represented 59 percent of all 1987 cash receipts from U.S. farmers in and included 58 percent of all farms in the nation. These states marketed 70 percent of the meat animals, 53 percent of the dairy products, 70 percent of the food grains, 72 percent of the feed crops, 71 percent of the oilseed crops, and 60 percent of the cotton sold in the United States.

Summary

In this survey of policy preferences, farmers in 21 states across the country were systematically selected to represent all U.S. farmers. The 12,717 individuals who responded express a wide range of preferences on agricultural and food policy that are important to the approaching 1990 legislation. Although the summary statements are based on an aggregation of data from all participating states, there may be important reasons to consider regional, production, and demographic differences in the results.

Policy direction.
Farmers' preferences are divided on the direction that commodity programs should take, but they generally agree on the instruments to carry them out. A majority favors some form of continuation of farm programs, while one-third favors gradual elimination. A few prefer mandatory supply control or decoupling as an overall policy for price and income support.

Target prices and loan rates.
A majority of farmers would like to keep target prices, with more favoring increased rather than current or reduced target prices. To set loan rates, farmers would prefer to use average market prices or to eliminate commodity loan programs.

Paid land diversion.
Although farmers are divided on continuing paid land diversion, about two-fifths would prefer continuing to give the Secretary of Agriculture an option to use it.

Marketing loans.
More farmers favor than oppose a marketing loan for wheat, feed grains, and soybeans. While the north central and southern states support the marketing loan, farmers in the West and Northeast disapprove.

Acreage bases.
Nearly a majority of the respondents favors a crop acreage base that would permit more flexibility to plant different crops than does the current, crop-specific acreage bases.

Payment-in-kind (PIK) certificates.
Farmers are split three ways on continuing the use of PIK certificates: yes, no, and not sure.

Farmer-owned reserve (FOR).
About twice as many farmers favor continuing the farmer-owned reserve as oppose continuation of it.

Future dairy support.
Preferences on future milk price policy are divided, but the most frequent choice among all respondents is to phase out the dairy support program. Milk producers are also divided, but their most frequent preference is to base support prices on the cost of production and to establish a quota for each producer.

Administrative discretion.
Although the Secretary of Agriculture has considerable discretion in implementing farm programs, more respondents would prefer to make no change than to give that cabinet officer more or less discretion.

Distribution of benefits.
A majority favors giving more benefits to farmers with annual gross sales under $250,000. However, respondents do not support using government programs to influence the number and size of farms.

Reducing farm program costs.
If budget pressures require reducing farm program expenditures, respondents prefer to continue payments to farmers with under $250,000 in annual gross sales and to reduce payments to larger farm operators, or to make across-the-board percentage cuts. Neither eliminating some programs nor basing payments on severe financial need is a popular choice.

Conservation programs.
Farmers strongly support the conservation compliance features of the 1985 Food Security Act. They also strongly support the 10-year Conservation Reserve Program but are divided on how much acreage should be included. To improve soil conservation and water quality, they prefer cost sharing for conservation and water structures and using government payments to modify cultural practices or remove land from commercial production. Respondents are concerned with water pollution and agree that government should regulate land uses to reduce it.

Crop insurance and disasters.
On other production issues, farmers are divided on a policy to deal with farm production risks from natural disasters. Their most frequent preferences are to keep the present crop-insurance program and to have limited disaster assistance in years of severe natural disturbances.

Payment limitation.
Farmers are divided on the question of payment limitation, but the most frequent preference is to make no change in the present $50,000 limit.

Credit for farmers with limited capital.
Farmers are about evenly divided in favor of and opposed to the government's lending money to farmers who cannot get credit from any other source.

Domestic food assistance.
Food assistance programs are more popular in the north central states and the Northeast than in the West and South.

Rural development.
Rural development to expand employment and economic activity in low income rural areas receives strong support from all farmers.

Trade.
Farmers support negotiation to reduce worldwide trade barriers; increased use of bilateral agreements; reduction of domestic farm subsidies in major importing and exporting countries; international agreements to control production and marketing; additional farmer-financed market development programs; and export enhancement and other export subsidies.

Foreign food assistance.
Respondents express no clear preference on proposals to provide more funds for food aid to hungry nations, for the United States to assist developing countries increase their agricultural productivity and trade potential, or for giving selected low income countries preferred entry to the U.S. agricultural market.

Federal spending.
Farmers support reducing the federal deficit by cutting every budget item by a set percentage, by reducing the defense budget, by reducing social programs, by reducing farm program expenditures, by collecting taxes due the federal government, and by increasing user fees for government services. Respondents oppose raising taxes or cutting social security payments to reduce the federal deficit.

Future Directions for Commodity Programs

Farmers were asked what the policy should be toward production controls and associated price supports after the 1985 Food Security Act expires in 1990. Although farmers across the country are divided in their preferences, over half (52 percent) prefer some type of price support program. Among all farmers responding, about one-third would like to keep the present programs. Slightly more than one-third would like to gradually eliminate commodity programs including set aside, price support, deficiency payments, and government storage. Eleven percent would prefer mandatory controls, and 8 percent want decoupling of payments from production requirements.

The strongest support for the present programs comes from the north central and southern states. The West and Northeast are least favorable for keeping the present programs. The most support for eliminating all programs comes from farmers in the western states.

The percent of respondents wanting to keep the present program varies from 19 to 41 percent in the different states. The percent preferring to gradually eliminate commodity programs varies from 22 to 52 percent (Table 2).

The farmers who most want to gradually eliminate the programs are those with annual gross cash receipts under $40,000 or over $500,000; with their major source of income from cattle or hogs; or with annual off-farm income over $40,000.

Establishing a mandatory supply control program, if approved in a farmer referendum, is not a popular choice. Among all respondents, only 11 percent choose this option; responses of individual states vary from 5 to 23 percent. Somewhat more support for mandatory controls comes from the Great Plains, the Southeast, and Wisconsin than from other states. In many of these states, production risks are high and crop choices are more limited. In the Southeast, more mandatory acreage programs, such as tobacco and peanuts, have been in use.

The concept of separating government payments from production requirements (sometimes called decoupling) is preferred by 8 percent of the respondents, with the lowest support from the Northeast. Individual state responses vary from 4 to 14 percent. Of the alternatives presented, this one is probably least understood, because it has not been generally used.

Target Prices

Target prices are established by law for certain crops. If the market price does not equal the target price over a specified number of months, qualifying farmers receive a deficiency payment to make up the difference. Farmers were asked what policy they prefer for target prices.

Target prices are a popular part of the current price and income support program. A majority would like to keep target prices. Only 28 percent want to phase them out. However, 38 percent want to raise them; 12 percent favor continuing at present rates; and 9 percent want to lower them.

The strongest support to raise target prices comes from the north central states; the strongest support for phasing out comes from the western states. Compared to farmers in other regions, a higher proportion of southern farmers wants to continue them at present levels (Table 3).

The strongest support for raising target prices comes from major wheat-, corn-, and cotton-producing states and from farmers with annual gross cash receipts between $40,000 and $500,000. The strongest support for phasing out target prices comes from livestock and non-grain producers and those with annual off-farm incomes over $40,000.

Setting Loan Rates

The loan rate is established by law, with some final discretion by the Secretary of Agriculture. It determines the amount of money that the government will lend per unit of the commodity, enabling farmers to hold eligible products for later sale. Farmers were asked what policy they prefer for commodity loans.

Although farmers are divided on future loan rate policy, the most frequent preference is to base the loan rate on the previous five-year average market prices to keep prices competitive. This formula was established by the 1985 Food Security Act. However, while 36 percent of all respondents prefer using average market prices, 34 percent favor eliminating loan rates and commodity loans. Only 18 percent would like to see loan rates raised as a primary means to support prices.

The least support to raise loan rates comes from the West and Northeast, and the most support to eliminate commodity loans comes from the western states. Within the north central states, respondents show a wide range of preferences for using average market prices to set, raise, or eliminate loan rates (Table 4).

The strongest preference to base loan rates on the five-year average market price comes from grain producers and from mixed grain and livestock producers. In contrast, the strongest preference to gradually eliminate loan rates and commodity loans comes from livestock producers.

Based on annual gross sales from farming, the strongest preference to eliminate commodity loans is expressed by those respondents with sales under $40,000 or over $500,000. Those with annual off-farm incomes over $40,000 also strongly favor phasing out commodity loans.

Paid Land Diversion

Under the 1985 Food Security Act, the Secretary of Agriculture was given the discretion to control production through a paid land diversion program. Farmers were asked if the paid land diversion program should be continued.

Among all farmers, 41 percent would like to see paid diversion continue as an option available to the Secretary of Agriculture; 27 percent would not; and 32 percent are not sure or did not respond. Strongest support for paid diversion comes from the north central and southern states. Farmers in the western states are least supportive of paid diversion (Table 5).

Paid diversion is favored by a majority of farmers in the Dakotas, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. Grain farmers strongly support paid diversion, while livestock farmers show more opposition than support. Support is more positive among farmers with over $40,000 in annual gross sales than with those under $40,000.

Marketing Loans

The marketing loan program enables a producer who has a government commodity loan to repay the loan at the market price for that commodity, even if that price is below the loan rate. The 1985 Food Security Act authorized the marketing loan for rice and cotton. The Secretary was also given discretionary authority to use it for wheat, feed grains, and soybeans but has not done so through 1989. Farmers were asked if the marketing loan should be extended to include wheat, feed grains, and soybeans.

Farmers are divided on this question. Among all farmers, 36 percent support marketing loans for wheat, feed grains, and soybeans; 30 percent oppose; and 34 percent are not sure or did not reply (Table 6). Farmers in the north central and southern states are most supportive of the marketing loan, while farmers in the West are least supportive. The highest proportion of "not sure" and "no reply" responses also comes from the western states (Table 6).

All types of farmers except major livestock producers support the marketing loan for wheat, feed grains, and soybeans. More farmers with all sizes of operations support marketing loans than oppose them. However, more farmers with over $40,000 annual income from off-farm employment oppose than support marketing loans.

The high proportion of farmers who are not sure about marketing loans or gave no response suggests that many of them do not understand this concept.

Acreage Bases

Under the 1985 Act, each farmer growing a program crop has a specific base acreage for that crop based on production history. On many farms, other crops are grown that do not qualify for program payments. Because the type of farm acreage bases is expected to be a major issue in the 1990 farm bill debate, farmers were asked if they would prefer the current policy or a total crop acreage base that would permit more flexibility in what they plant on their farms.

The 1988 Disaster Assistance Act permitted farmers to plant soybeans or sunflowers on as much as 25 percent of their program crop base and still maintain their historic program crop base in future years.

Among all farmers responding, 47 percent favor a total crop acreage base; 31 percent favor a crop-specific base; and the remainder wants other arrangements or did not respond. Although more farmers in each region favor total crop bases over crop-specific bases, the strongest support comes

from the north central and southern states. In only six states does a majority favor the total crop acreage base (Table 7).

However, strong support for the total crop acreage base comes from farmers with all types of operations, from those in all sales classes, and from those with all levels of off-farm income.

Payment-in-Kind (PIK) Certificates

After passage of the 1985 Act, the U.S. Department of Agriculture began to issue generic, negotiable marketing certificates for payment of certain farm program benefits. These payment-in-kind (PIK) certificates provided a means for farmers to move grain or cotton under loan before the loan matured and a means for the government to move its stocks into marketing channels although the market price was below the authorized price for the government to sell its stocks. Because the certificates are negotiable, they also have cash value and are bought and sold by farmers and commodity marketing firms.

Farmers were asked if the use of generic payment-in-kind certificates should continue as part of the price and income support programs as long as government-controlled stocks exist.

Farmers are definitely divided on this issue. Among all respondents, 37 percent say yes; 32 percent, no; and 31 percent are not sure or did not respond. In the north central states, slightly more oppose than favor PIK certificates. Strongest support comes from the southern states. In 14 states, mostly in the South, north central states, and the Northeast, more farmers favor than oppose continuing use of the PIK certificates. Substantial numbers in most states also are unsure about their use. A majority of farmers in North and South Dakota opposes continuing use, probably reflecting what may be considered unfavorable results with use of the certificates (Table 8).

When farmers responding are divided by major source of farm income and volume of sales, more respondents with over $100,000 in annual gross sales and those with grain as their major source of income favor use of PIK certificates than do other respondents.

Farmer-Owned Reserve (FOR)

The farmer-owned reserve (FOR) was established in the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 and continued with certain limits in the 1981 and 1985 acts. Farmers were asked if some form of farmer-owned grain reserve should be continued.

Among all respondents, 45 percent favor continuing the farmer-owned reserve with national minimum and maximum amounts to be stored; 22 percent oppose; and 33 percent are not sure or did not respond. In each region and in each state, more favor than oppose continuing the farmer-owned reserve. A majority of farmers in Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Arkansas, Florida, and South Carolina favor the FOR. The lowest level of support comes from the western states (Table 9).

All types of farmers, all sales groups, and all amounts of off-farm employment income support the farmer-owned reserve.

Future Dairy Policy

Although the dairy price support program was permanently authorized by the Agricultural Act of 1949, it currently operates under amendments in the Food Security Act of 1985. Milk prices are supported through government purchases of manufactured dairy products at specified prices. Farmers were asked their preference for a future price support program for milk producers.

Among all farmers, responses are divided on what the future dairy program should be. The total responses show that 28 percent favor phasing out all dairy price supports over a period of several years. Although 31 percent favor some type of support program, 16 percent favor the present program with adjustments of the support price up or down based on production and projected government purchases; and 15 percent want to shift to a support based on average production costs and to establish a production quota for each producer. Only 4 percent want to let the Secretary of Agriculture have more authority in setting the support price, and 37 percent either are not sure or did not reply (Table 10).

Although the composite response shows a slight preference for some type of program, the most frequent response in each region is to phase out the program.

When responses of only dairy farmers are analyzed, much more support for a price support program is evident. Among all dairy farmers, 41 percent prefer to have support prices based on average costs of production and a production quota established for

each producer; 23 percent want to phase out the program over several years; 19 percent want to keep the present program; 14 percent are not sure; and 2 percent would let the Secretary of Agriculture decide the program.

In Wisconsin, 33 percent favor a cost-of-production support with a production quota; 25 percent favor phasing out the program; 14 percent favor the present program; and 2 percent would let the Secretary of Agriculture set the support.

Only in Michigan, Wisconsin, Washington, and Arkansas do more farmers favor a price support based on cost of production and a quota system instead of the present program (Table 10).

Discretion for the Secretary of Agriculture

In all major farm legislation, the Secretary of Agriculture has been authorized to make certain decisions to administer the price and income support programs. Respondents were asked how much discretion the Secretary of Agri-culture should have (compared to the present) in setting loan rates, set-aside acreage, and export subsidies.

Farmers are divided on this question. Among all farmers, 40 percent would make no changes; 33 percent would give less discretion; 15 percent would give more; and 12 percent did not respond. Making no change in the amount of discretionary decisions is also the most frequent response in the north central, western, and southern states. But in New York, giving less discretion is the most frequent response. Only in Florida does a majority of respondents want to give the Secretary more decision-making discretion (Table 11).

Making no change in the Secretary's discretionary authority is the most frequent response among farmers with all different sources of income and amounts of income from off-farm employment. Farmers in all sales classes favor keeping discretion the same, except slightly more of those with $250,000 to $500,000 in annual gross sales favor less discretion.

More Support for Smaller Farms

A major issue in debates on previous farm bills has been whether or not a higher proportion of benefits should go to smaller farms. In this survey, farmers were asked to agree or disagree with the statement that future programs should be changed to give more program benefits to farms with annual gross sales under $250,000.

Among all respondents, a majority agrees that operators of smaller farms should receive more benefits. Although less than a majority of farmers in the West agrees, the proportion agreeing is more than those who disagree (Table 12). Farmers with all types of enterprises and all levels of off-farm income favor more support for smaller farms. However, when responses are divided by value of annual sales, a majority of farmers with annual gross sales over $250,000 disagrees with giving more benefits to smaller operators.

Influencing the Size and Number of Farms

Whether or not farm programs influence the trend toward larger and fewer farms has become a policy issue. Respondents were asked if they agree that future farm programs should be used to influence the number and size of farms, with allowance for type of farm and geographic conditions.

Farmers are divided on this issue, but 38 percent oppose while only 29 percent support the concept that government programs should influence the number and size of farms (Table 13). Each region shows more disagreement than agreement on this issue. Only in North Dakota, Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi do more farmers agree that government programs should influence the number and size of farms.

The greatest differences in responses to this question come from farmers with operations of different sizes. In all classes of annual gross sales over $40,000, more farmers disagree than agree that government should influence farm size and numbers. A majority of those over $250,000 disagrees, probably because larger operators suspect that any efforts to influence size would be to reduce or limit the size or number of larger farms.

The "not sure" responses on this question range from 17 to 29 percent in the different states, a higher percentage than for many of the questions.

Cutting Farm Program Costs

Respondents were asked how farm commodity program costs should be cut if necessary to reduce federal spending. Respondents are divided on what should be done.

Among all respondents, 35 percent want to continue payments to operators of small- to moderate-size farms with annual gross sales under $250,000 and to reduce payments to operators of large farms. However, 28 percent want to make across-the-board percentage cuts. Neither making payments only on basis of financial need nor cutting some programs more than others is a popular choice (Table 14).

Larger farm operators with annual gross sales over $250,000 more frequently prefer to make across-the-board cuts. Farm operators in the southern states are about equally divided between percentage cuts and reductions of payments to larger farms. Making payments to farmers with the most severe financial need is favored more frequently in Missouri and some southern states than in other regions of the country.

Conservation Programs

Required Conservation Plans for Program Benefits

The conservation title of the 1985 Food Security Act included a requirement that farmers with highly erodible land have approved conservation plans developed by January 1, 1990, and implemented by January 1, 1995, to maintain eligibility for farm program benefits. Respondents were asked if soil conservation and water quality compliance should be a condition for receiving farm program benefits.

Among all respondents, 60 percent favor this provision. A majority in all regions and all types and sizes of farms supports this program. Although some differences are noted from state to state, the responses indicate strong support for this provision of the 1985 Act (Table 15).

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the 1985 Act authorized up to 45 million acres of the most erodible cropland to be taken out of production for 10 years and planted to trees or seeded to soil-conserving crops. Rental payments are made annually and determined on a bid basis. By early 1989, 30 million acres had been signed up for this program. Respondents were asked what future policy they prefer.

Farmers definitely support the CRP. Among all respondents, only 26 percent want to eliminate the program, while 23 percent would keep the CRP acreage at 30 million, 23 percent would expand it to 45 million, and 14 percent want to expand it even further, to 60 million. Support for the program is somewhat lower in the West than in other regions (Table 16).

Respondents in the north central states and the West are more supportive of expanding to 45 million acres; while in the South and Northeast, more favor keeping acreage around 30 million. Farmers with larger sales volume are more supportive of larger CRP acreage. Livestock farmers more frequently favor eliminating the program or keeping acreage around 30 million.

Preferred Ways to Improve Soil Conservation and Water Quality

Soil conservation and water quality continue to be major policy issues. Respondents were asked to check all the methods listed that they believe would be most effective in achieving improvements in soil conservation and water quality: (1) regulation of farming practices; (2) taxing certain practices, such as high levels of chemical and fertilizer use; (3) cost sharing only for conservation and water structures; and (4) government payments to modify cultural practices or to remove land from commercial production.

Among all respondents, 45 percent select cost sharing for soil and water conservation structures; 25 percent select government payments to modify cultural practices or to remove land from production. Regulating farm practices and taxing certain practices are each selected by 16 percent of respondents. In each region, the ranking of these practices is about the same (Table 17).

Regulating Land Use to Reduce Water Pollution

Respondents were asked if they agree with a statement that government should regulate land uses to reduce water pollution. Among all respondents, 61 percent agree; 18 percent disagree; and 21 percent are not sure or did not respond. Although more agree than disagree, support for regulating land uses to reduce water pollution is lower in the western states and the Northeast than in other regions of the country (Table 18).

Other Issues

Crop Insurance

A comprehensive, subsidized, all-risk crop insurance program was enacted in September 1980. Participating producers pay a portion of the cost and the federal government pays part. The 1988 and 1989 drought conditions in many parts of the country have made crop insurance policy a major issue. Farmers were asked what our national policy should be to deal with farm production risks from natural disasters.

Responses show a wide division. Among all farmers, 33 percent want to keep the present program; 21 percent prefer that the government provide limited disaster assistance in years of severe natural disturbances, but without federal crop insurance; 13 percent prefer that farmers be required to buy crop insurance to be eligible for government program benefits; and 11 percent favor eliminating all disaster payments. The remainder had other responses or did not respond. Only in North Dakota does a majority favor keeping the present program.

Farmers in the north central states, the West, and the South have about the same preferences. In the Northeast, more farmers favor disaster payments, and fewer want to eliminate all programs or have mandatory insurance (Table 19).

Responses from farmers with different types of farms, volumes of sales, and amounts of off-farm income are about the same.

Payment Limitation

Under the 1985 Act, there is a $50,000 limit on direct price support payments to each farmer — with certain exceptions. Respondents were asked to recommend a future policy.

Among all respondents, 39 percent prefer to make no change; 27 percent want to decrease the limit; 11 percent want to eliminate the limit; 7 percent want to increase it; and 11 percent did not reply. Compared to other regions, more farmers in the north central states prefer to make no change. Fewer farmers in the West want to decrease the limit, and more want to increase or eliminate it than do farmers in other regions (Table 20).

Although more farmers in all sizes and types of operations and with all amounts of off-farm income prefer to make no change, some differences are noted. More farmers with annual gross sales over $250,000 prefer to eliminate the limit than do farmers with lower sales volumes. Farmers with annual off-farm incomes over $10,000 show more preference to decrease the payment limit. Preferences are about the same for all types of farms.

Credit to Farmers with Limited Capital

The Farmers Home Administration, an agency within the Department of Agriculture, makes direct loans to farmers who cannot get credit from other sources. It has faced serious problems with delinquent loans during the 1980s. Respondents were asked if the government should continue to loan money to farmers with limited capital who cannot get credit from other sources.

Farmers are definitely divided on this question. Among all respondents, 37 percent say yes; 35 percent, no; and 28 percent are not sure or did not reply. Strongest support for borrowers with limited capital is in the South and least in the north central states. In Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Arizona, more respondents oppose lending to these farmers than favor it (Table 21).

Farmers with annual gross sales under $40,000 are more supportive of limited-capital borrowers than are larger operators. Respondents with operations over $500,000 in annual gross sales are more strongly opposed to these borrowers than are those with lower sales volumes.

Food Assistance Programs

The domestic food assistance programs are designed to feed hungry people and also to stimulate greater consumption of plentiful food products. Although food stamps were first used in the 1930s, the Food Stamp Act of 1964 established food stamps as part of our food assistance program after World War II. Food stamps and food assistance amendments were incorporated into the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 and in major farm bills in 1977, 1981, and 1985.

In recent years, the emphasis has gradually shifted toward improving the nutritional well-being of low-income families, school children, and at-risk pregnant mothers and infants. Respondents were asked if they agree that the money for food assistance programs used for food stamps, school lunches, and other targeted programs should be increased to meet more adequately the needs of those eligible.

Farmers are sharply divided on this question. Among all respondents, 41 percent agree that food assistance programs should be increased; 36 percent disagree; and 23 percent are not sure or did not respond. Respondents in the north central and northeastern states are more supportive of food assistance than those in the West and South (Table 22). Only in Indiana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin does a majority agree that assistance should be increased.

Among farmers with annual gross sales under $500,000, more agree than disagree that food programs should be increased. However, those with over $500,000 disagree more frequently than agree on this question. Although more grain and livestock farmers agree to increase food programs, farmers with other major sources of income and those with over $40,000 in annual income from off-farm employment disagree more frequently than agree.

Rural Development

Economic development in rural areas has been widely discussed as rural communities undergo change. Respondents were asked if they agree with a statement that the federal government should increase funding for rural development programs to expand employment and economic activity in low-income rural areas.

Farmers strongly favor increased spending for rural development. Among all respondents, 58 percent agree; 18 percent disagree; and 24 percent are not sure or did not reply. Fewer farmers in the western states and the Northeast agree with expanding rural development, although more favor than oppose the proposal (Table 23).

More farmers on all types of farms, in all sales classes, and with different amounts of off-farm employment income support rural development. However, support is lower among those with annual gross sales over $500,000.

Agricultural Trade and Development

From 20 to 30 percent of the value of U.S. agricultural production moves into foreign markets every year. More than half of the soybeans, wheat, rice, dried prunes, cotton, and almonds produced in 1987 were exported. The policies affecting trade and development in other countries of the world become significant for U.S. farmers. Farmers were asked a series of questions relating to trade and development policies.

Q. Should the United States negotiate worldwide reductions in trade barriers?

Among all farmers, 71 percent agree that we should negotiate worldwide reductions in trade barriers. Farmers in all regions and with all types and sizes of farms agree. Farmers with annual gross sales over $40,000 are more supportive of reducing trade barriers than are those with smaller operations (Table 24).

Q. Should the United States rely more on bilateral trade agreements?

Among all farmers, 59 percent agree that we should rely more on separate trade agreements with individual countries. Responses in each region and on all types and sizes of farms are similar. The percentage of "not sure" and "no reply" responses is higher on this question than the percentage who disagree (Table 25).

Q. Should the United States negotiate reductions in domestic farm subsidies of major importing and exporting countries worldwide?

This question seemed especially timely because the Geneva Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations were taking place in Geneva at the time of the survey. Among all respondents, 53 percent agree; 27 percent are not sure; 10 percent disagree; and 10 percent did not respond. Although more Wisconsin, Alabama and New York farmers favor than oppose reduced subsidies, the proportion of "not sure" and "no reply" responses brings the positive responses below 50 percent. A majority of farmers in all sales classes, with all types of farms and all classes of off-farm employment income, favors subsidy reductions (Table 26).

Q. Should the United States join with other major exporting countries to establish production and marketing controls?

International marketing agreements have been discussed for many years, with some farm groups favoring them. Among all respondents, 45 percent agree that the United States should establish such controls; 24 percent disagree; and 31 percent are not sure or did not respond. With one exception, more farmers in each state favor than oppose international production and marketing agreements: in Illinois, the numbers agreeing and disagreeing are equal.

Among farmers with annual gross sales over $250,000, a majority opposes international production and marketing agreements. Less than a majority of grain and mixed grain and livestock farmers supports them, although more agree than disagree.

Responses to this question seem inconsistent with other responses favoring more free trade with fewer restrictions. The high percent of "not sure" and "no reply" responses suggests that many respondents are not familiar with what would be involved in international production and marketing agreements (Table 27).

Q. Should the United States provide more funds for food aid to hungry nations?

Farmers are divided on this question. Among all respondents, 40 percent agree that the United States should provide more funds for food aid to hungry nations; 32 percent disagree; and 30 percent are not sure or did not reply. More farmers agree than disagree in the north central states, the West, and the Northeast. In the South, however, preferences are evenly divided. Only in Iowa, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas does a majority favor increased funds. The high percentage of "not sure" and "no reply" responses suggests farmers have some uncertainty about providing more funds (Table 28).

Farmers with annual gross sales over $40,000 are definitely more supportive of food aid than those with farm sales under $40,000. Major grain producers favor food aid more than other types of farmers.

Q. Should the United States encourage additional farmer-financed foreign market development programs?

Farm commodity groups in some states have established voluntary programs in which producers of that commodity agree to a small assessment at the time they sell their product. The funds are used to promote demand for that product in this country and overseas. The 1985 Food Security Act included national "check-off" programs for pork and beef if approved by farmers in a nationwide referendum. Producers subsequently approved these programs. Corn, wheat, and soybean check-off programs also operate in many states.

Farmers favor more farmer-financed market development programs. In the survey, 46 percent agree that the United States should encourage more farmer-financed market development programs; 23 percent disagree; and 31 percent are not sure or did not respond. About one-third of all respondents are not sure or did not respond to this question. Stronger support for these programs comes from the north central, western, and southern states than from the Northeast (Table 29).

A majority of farmers with annual gross sales over $40,000 support farmer-financed development programs. Grain farmers are somewhat more supportive of these programs than are livestock farmers.

Q. Should the United States continue the Export Enhancement Program and other government export subsidies?

The Export Enhancement Program was authorized in the 1985 Food Security Act to counter subsidized exports from the European Community that were believed to be taking away U.S. markets. Other export subsidy programs were already in effect.

Among all respondents, 48 percent agree that the Export Enhancement Program and other export subsidies should continue; 12 percent disagree; and 40 percent are not sure or did not respond. Farmers in all regions support export enhancement. However, the unusually high percent of "not sure" and "no reply" responses in all regions suggests that many farmers are not familiar with or do not understand export enhancement or other export subsidies (Table 30).

Export subsidy programs are most strongly favored by farmers with annual gross sales over $40,000 and by grain or mixed grain and livestock farmers.

Q. Should the United States reduce our agricultural import barriers to encourage more trade?

Because we support certain commodities above world market prices, we have import quotas or restrictions on certain commodities such as peanuts, dairy products, and sugar. Reducing import barriers could bring increased competition to these commodities.

Farmers are definitely divided on whether or not to reduce barriers to imports of agricultural products. Among all respondents, 36 percent agree that the United States should reduce our agricultural import barriers to encourage more trade; 32 percent disagree; and 32 percent were not sure or did not respond. In the north central states, the West, and the South, more farmers as a group support import barrier reduction than oppose it. However, in 10 states—Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Idaho, Washington, Oklahoma, and New York—more farmers oppose than support reducing import barriers (Table 31).

More farmers with annual gross sales over $100,000 oppose than support import barrier reductions. Grain farmers are more in favor of import barrier reductions than are livestock farmers. These responses suggest some concerns among certain groups of farmers about increased competition and possibly lower prices that could result from lowering of import barriers.

Q. Should the United States assist developing countries increase their agricultural productivity and trade potential?

In many developing countries, U.S. technical assistance has been aimed at helping improve the food-producing capacity of these countries as a way to facilitate general economic development. Farmers are definitely divided on this issue. Among all respondents, 34 percent favor assistance to improve agricultural productivity; 35 percent oppose; and 31 percent are not sure or did not respond. Farmers in the Northeast are more supportive of agricultural assistance than are farmers in the other regions (Table 32).

More farmers with annual gross sales over $40,000 oppose agriculture assistance than favor it. However, more grain, livestock, and mixed grain and livestock farmers oppose agricultural aid than support it. More farmers with off-farm employment incomes over $40,000 favor than oppose such assistance.

The responses to this question suggest that farmers believe that helping other countries improve their agricultural productivity helps build competition for their products in overseas markets. Apparently they do not recognize that increased agricultural productivity contributes to general economic development, a necessary condition for long-term market development.

Q. Should the United States give selected low income countries preferred entry to our agricultural market?

Potential growth for U.S. agricultural exports is in the developing countries. One way to further increase this trade may be to buy more of the agricultural products from these countries.

Farmers are divided on whether or not we should give preferred entry to agricultural products from certain countries. Among all respondents, 31 percent believe that we should give preferred entry; 32 percent disagree; and 37 percent are not sure or did not respond. Only in the north central states do slightly more farmers agree than disagree that preferred treatment should be given. In the West, South, and Northeast, more farmers disagree. No state had a majority opinion on either side of the question (Table 33).

Farmers with annual gross sales over $40,000 are more supportive of giving preferred entry than are those with lower gross sales. Grain farmers are more supportive than livestock producers. Only farmers with less than $10,000 annual off-farm employment income are supportive of preferred treatment for low income countries.

These responses suggest that many farmers are apprehensive of giving special treatment to countries that might produce products competitive to their own.

Federal Spending

Monetary and fiscal policies can affect the financial conditions of farmers and their competitive position in world markets because these policies influence interest rates, farm costs, and demand for agricultural products. Reducing the federal deficit has been one of the major policy issues in recent years. Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with a series of statements on how to reduce the federal deficit.

Reducing every budget item by a set percentage.

Among all respondents, 53 percent agree that every budget item should be reduced by a set percentage; 20 percent disagree; and 27 percent are not sure or did not reply. A majority of farmers in each region has similar views (Table 34). Farmers with different types and sizes of farming operations all have similar preferences.

Reducing the defense budget.

Among all respondents, 53 percent agree that the federal deficit should be cut by reducing defense expenditures; 24 percent disagreed; and 23 percent are not sure or did not reply. Farmers in the South support defense cuts, but by a smaller percentage (Table 35). A majority of all farmers with different types and sizes of farming operations has similar preferences.

Reducing social programs (excluding social security).

Among all farmers, 50 percent agree that the federal deficit should be reduced by reducing social programs, excluding social security; 25 percent disagree; and 25 percent are not sure or did not respond. Farmers in all states agree more frequently than they disagree (Table 36). A majority of farmers with different types of farms and sizes of operations agrees. More than 60 percent of farmers with annual gross sales above $100,000 want to reduce social programs.

Reducing social security payments.

Farmers do not want to see reductions in social security payments. Among all respondents, 71 percent oppose reductions; only 9 percent favor cuts; and 20 percent are not sure or did not reply. This question produced the largest percentage of strong disagreement of any question in the survey (Table 37). Farmers with all sizes and types of farms and all amounts of off-farm income agree that social security payments should not be cut.

Reducing farm program expenditures.

Farmers are divided on reducing farm program expenditures to reduce the federal deficit. Among all respondents, 41 percent agree; 33 disagree; and 26 percent are not sure or did not reply. In the West, a majority agrees that expenditures should be reduced (Table 38). More farm operators with annual gross sales over $250,000 oppose than favor cuts. More grain farmers oppose cuts than support them; but a majority of livestock farmers supports reductions in expenditures. More farmers with a higher amount of off-farm employment income favor farm program cuts.

Raising taxes.

In all states, farmers strongly oppose raising taxes to reduce the federal deficit. Among all respondents, 64 disagree that taxes should be raised; 14 percent agree; and 22 percent are not sure or did not reply. Responses seem uniformly similar in all regions (Table 39). A substantial majority of all types and sizes of farmers opposes increasing taxes.

Increasing collections of taxes due.

More than two of every three farmers strongly agree that the federal deficit should be reduced by increasing collection of taxes due the federal government. Among all respondents, 67 percent agree; 12 percent disagree; and 21 percent are not sure or did not reply. Responses are similar from all regions and from all types and sizes of farms (Table 40).

Increasing user fees for government services.

In all states, more farmers agree than disagree that user fees for government services should be increased. Among all respondents, 43 percent agree; 22 percent disagree; and 35 percent are not sure or did not reply. In the western states, however, preferences for increasing user fees are somewhat less, perhaps because respondents fear that they might be the ones paying the increased fees (Table 41). Fewer farmers with annual gross sales under $40,000 favor increasing user fees than do those with over $40,000. Farmers with different types of farms respond about the same to this question.

Profile of Survey Respondents

To provide insight about the respondents, the questionnaire included a number of questions about the farmers, their farm operations, and their participation in farm programs and farm organizations during 1988.

Voluntary participation in 1988 farm programs.

Among all respondents, 30 percent participated in the 1988 wheat program, 39 percent in the feed grain program, 5 percent in the cotton program, 1 percent in the rice program, 12 percent in the Conservation Reserve, 30 percent in the disaster program, and 5 percent in other programs (Table 42).

The percentage of farmers who voluntarily participated in the wheat acreage-reduction program varied widely, depending upon the significance of wheat production in the state. In the major wheat states of Kansas, North Dakota, and Oklahoma, participation ranged from 73 to 88 percent.

Participation in the feed grain program in the north central states averaged 57 percent, with a range from 47 to 87 percent.

Participation in the cotton program ranged from 14 to 35 percent in cotton-growing states. In Arkansas, 15 percent participated in the rice program.

Participation in the Conservation Reserve was reported in all states, with the highest percentage in North Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, and South Carolina.

Participation in the 1988 Drought Disaster Program varied from 1 percent in Arizona to 82 percent in North Dakota. Because the north central states were the hardest hit by the 1988 drought, the highest participation would be expected in these states (Table 42).

Age.

Farmers in all age groups participated in the survey. Among all respondents, 65 percent were between 35 and 65 years of age; 9 percent were under 35; 24 percent were 65 and over; and 2 percent did not give their age. The percentage of respondents 65 and over was higher in the South than other regions (Table 43).

Last year of school completed.

All levels of formal education were represented, from grade school through college graduation. Among all respondents, 43 percent had formal education beyond high school; 35 percent were graduated from high school; 18 per cent attended grade school or some high school; and 3 percent did not reply. The highest percent of respondents who had received formal education beyond high school was in the West and South (Table 44).

Annual gross sales.

Respondents operated farms in all sales classes—from under $40,000, to $500,0000 and over. Among all respondents, 47 percent reported annual gross sales under $40,000; 23 percent reported $40,000 to $99,999; 24 percent, between $100,000 and $500,000; 2 percent, over $500,000; and 4 percent did not reply. A higher percentage of farmers in the South reported sales under $40,000. A higher proportion of farmers in the West reported sales over $100,000 (Table 45).

Income from off-farm employment.

Off-farm employment is an important source of family income for many farm families. Among all respondents, 25 percent reported under $10,000 in income from off-farm employment; 14 percent reported $10,000 to $19,999; 17 percent reported between $20,000 and $40,000; 9 percent reported over $40,000; and 35 percent did not report any off-farm income.

For the 35 percent that did not report any off-farm income, we do not know if they had none or simply did not report it, making it difficult to analyze the effects of off-farm income on policy preferences.

A higher percentage of respondents in the South reported off-farm employment income over $20,000 than did those in other regions. In 14 states, at least 20 percent of the respondents reported off-farm employment income over $20,000 (Table 46).

Most important source of 1988 farm income.

Grain, livestock, and dairy production were the most important sources of farm income reported. Among all survey respondents, 30 percent reported hogs, beef, or sheep as their most important source of income; 26 percent, grain; 9 percent, dairy; 13 percent, mixed grain and livestock; 16 percent, other; and 6 percent did not reply. The states in which grain comprised the most significant source of income for respondents were Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Michigan, and South Dakota.

States with highest proportion of livestock operations were Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas, and South Dakota. Wisconsin and South Carolina had the highest proportion of dairy farms (Table 47).

Membership in farm and commodity organizations.

More respondents reported membership in the Farm Bureau than any other organization. Farmers Union membership was most frequently reported in North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, and Kansas. Washington reported the highest proportion of Grange members.

Membership in commodity organizations varied according to the importance of individual commodities in each state. Commodities represented in organizations with the highest membership were cattle, pork, soybeans, wheat, corn, milk, and cotton (Table 48).

1989 Government and Agricultural Policy Preference Survey

SECTION A - FARM COMMODITY PROGRAMS

1. What should be the policy toward production controls and associated price supports after the 1985 Food Security Act expires in 1990? (Check one)
   a. Keep the present programs ☐
   b. Establish a mandatory supply control program with all farmers required to participate if approved in a farmer referendum ☐
   c. Separate government payments from production requirements. (Sometimes this is called decoupling.) ☐
   d. Gradually eliminate commodity programs including set aside, price support, deficiency payments and government storage programs ☐
   e. Other _____

2. What should be the policy toward target prices? (Check one)
   a. Keep target prices at the current levels. ☐
   b. Raise target prices each year to match the rate of inflation ☐
   c. Lower target prices 2 to 4 percent each year to reduce federal deficiency payments and federal expenditures and to discourage over-production ☐
   d. Phase out target prices completely over a 5 to 10 year period ☐
   e. Other _____

3. What should be our commodity loan rate policy? (check one)
   a. Base loan rate on the previous 5 year average market prices to keep prices competitive ☐
   b. Raise loan rates as a primary means to support prices ☐
   c. Eliminate loan rates and commodity loans completely. ☐

4. Should an annual paid land diversion program to control production be continued as an option available to the Secretary of Agriculture?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
☐	☐	☐

5. Should the marketing loan be extended to include wheat, feed grains and soybeans?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
☐	☐	☐

6. What type of acreage bases would you favor? (check one)
   a. Continue the current policy of specific crop acreage bases ☐
   b. Assign each farm a total crop acreage base, excluding hay and pasture, and allow any crop to be grown on the permitted acreage ☐
   c. Other _____

7. Should generic (payment-in-kind) certificates continue to be part of price and income support programs as long as government-controlled stocks exist?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
☐	☐	☐

8. Should some form of farmer-owned grain reserve (FOR), with national minimum and maximum amounts to be stored, be continued?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
☐	☐	☐

9. For a new farm bill, how much discretion should the Secretary of Agriculture have, compared to the present, in setting loan rates, set aside acreage and export subsidies?

MORE	LESS	NO CHANGE
☐	☐	☐

SECTION B - CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

1. To be eligible for farm program benefits, the 1985 farm bill requires the development of conservation plans for farms with highly erodible land by 1990 and implementation by 1995. Should soil conservation and water quality compliance be a condition for receiving farm program benefits?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
☐	☐	☐

2. The 1985 Food Security Act authorized up to 45 million acres for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which makes rental payments on a bid basis to farmers for long term land retirement. What should be the future policy? (check one)
   a. Limit the CRP to the current level of about 30 million acres ☐
   b. Expand the CRP to 45 million acres as provided in the 1985 act ☐
   c. Further expand the CRP to around 60 million acres ☐
   d. Eliminate the CRP program ☐
   e. Other _____

3. Which of the following approaches do you think would be most effective in achieving improvements in soil conservation and water quality? (check any that you feel appropriate)
   a. Regulation of farming practices ☐
   b. Taxing certain practices such as "high" levels of chemical and fertilizer use ☐
   c. Cost sharing only for conservation and water structures ☐
   d. Government payments to modify cultural practices or to remove land from commercial production ☐

SECTION C - CROP INSURANCE

1. What should be our national policy to deal with farm production risks from natural disasters? (check one)
   a. Continue the present voluntary crop insurance program where producers pay about 70 percent and government pays about 30 percent of the cost ☐
   b. Have government provide limited disaster assistance in years of severe natural disturbances but have no federal crop insurance ☐
   c. Eliminate all disaster payments and federal crop insurance programs ☐
   d. Require all farmers to buy crop insurance to be eligible for government program benefits ☐
   e. Not sure ☐
   f. Other _____

SECTION D - OTHER ISSUES

1. There is now a $50,000 limit on direct price support payments to each farmer with certain exceptions. What recommendations would you make for the future? (check one)

   a. Increase the limit ☐
   b. Make no change ☐
   c. Decrease the limit ☐
   d. Eliminate the limit completely ☐
   e. Other _____

2. What should be the future price support program for milk producers? (check one whether you have milk cows or not)

   a. Continue the present program adjusting the support price up or down based on production and projected government purchases ☐
   b. Set support prices based on average production costs and establish a production quota for each producer ☐
   c. Phase out all dairy price supports over a period of several years ☐
   d. Give the Secretary of Agriculture more authority to set the price support. ☐
   e. Not sure ☐

3. Should the government continue to loan money to farmers with limited capital who cannot get credit from other sources?

YES	NO	NOT SURE
☐	☐	☐

Check your views on each question:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4. Future farm programs should be changed to give a higher proportion of price and income support benefits to farms with gross annual sales under $250,000	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Government commodity programs should be used to influence the number and size of farms with allowance made for type of farm and geographic conditions	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Government should regulate certain farming practices and land uses to reduce pollution of underground and stream water	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. The $19 billion spent in 1987 to provide food assistance programs through food stamps, school lunches, and other targeted food assistance programs should be increased to more adequately meet the needs of those eligible	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. The federal government should increase funding for rural development programs to expand employment and economic activity in low income rural areas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

SECTION E - INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Check your views on each question:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. The United States should:					
a. Negotiate world-wide reductions in trade barriers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Rely more on separate trade agreements between the U.S. and individual countries	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Negotiate reductions in domestic farm subsidies of major importing and exporting countries world-wide	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
d. Join with other major exporting countries to establish production and marketing controls	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
e. Provide more funds for food aid to hungry nations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
f. Encourage additional farmer-financed foreign market development programs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
g. Continue the export enhancement program established by the 1985 farm bill and other government export subsidies	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
h. Reduce our agricultural import barriers to encourage more trade	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
i. Assist developing countries to increase their agricultural productivity and trade potential	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
j. Give selected low income countries preferred entry to our U.S. agricultural market.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

SECTION F - FEDERAL SPENDING

1. Reducing the federal deficit has been one of the major policy goals in recent years. (Check your opinion on each proposal.)

The federal deficit should be reduced by:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Reducing every budget item by a set percentage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b. Reducing the defense budget	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c. Reducing social programs (excluding social security)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

d. Reducing social security payments .....
e. Reducing farm program expenditures .....
f. Raising taxes .....
g. Increasing collection of taxes due the federal government .....
h. Increasing user fees for government services .....

2. Farm commodity programs have recently cost $15 to $20 billion each year. If reductions were required because of the need to reduce federal spending, which would you favor? (Check one)
   a. Make across the board percentage cuts as required .....
   b. Cut some commodity programs more than others .....
   c. Continue payments to operators of small to moderate size farms (gross sales under $250,000) and reduce payments to large farm operators .....
   d. Make payments only to farmers with the most severe financial need.....
   e. Other _____

SECTION G - PERSONAL DATA

To help us analyze your answers, we would like to know more about you.

1. Your age: (Please check)
   Under 35 .....
   35 - 49 .....
   50 - 64 .....
   65 or over .....
2. Approximate annual gross sales (including government payments) from your farm in recent years:
   Under $40,000 .....
   $40,000 - $99,999 .....
   $100,000 - $249,999 .....
   $250,000 - $499,999 .....
   Over $500,000 .....
3. What was the last year of school you completed?
   Grade school .....
   Some high school .....
   High school graduate .....
   Some college or technical school .....
   Graduated from college .....
4. If you or members of your family were employed off the farm, check the approximate amount of family income in 1988 that came from off farm employment:
   Under $10,000 .....
   $10,000 - $19,999 .....
   $20,000 - $40,000 .....
   Over $40,000 .....
5. What was your most important source of cash receipts in 1988? (check one)
   Grain ☐ Hogs, Beef, Sheep ☐
   Dairy ☐ Mixed Grain and Livestock ☐
   Other ☐ Specify _____
6. Check below the programs that you participated in during 1988?

	Wheat	Feed Grain	Cotton	Rice
Price Support and Acreage Reduction	☐	☐	☐	☐
Conservation Reserve	☐	1988 Disaster Program	☐	

   Other programs _____
7. Please check your membership in these organizations in 1988:
   American Agr. Movement .....
   Farm Bureau .....
   Farmers Union .....
   Grange .....
   NFO .....
   Cattlemen's Association .....
   Corn Growers .....
   Cotton Growers .....
   Grain Sorghum Growers .....
   Labor Union .....
   Milk Producers .....
   Pork Producers .....
   Soybean Association .....
   Wheat Growers .....
   Other (Specify)_____

Table 1. Participating States, Size of Sample, and Number of Usable Responses

Region and state	Number of farmers in sample	Number of usable responses	Response percentage
North Central			
Illinois	1,000	594	59
Indiana	1,500	515	34
Iowa	3,270	2,014	62
Kansas	3,000	1,221	41
Michigan	915	348	38
Missouri	1,000	420	42
Nebraska	1,000	112	11
North Dakota	1,000	609	61
South Dakota	1,500	490	33
Wisconsin	1,000	430	43
West			
Arizona	700	332	47
Idaho	3,100	1,148	37
Washington	1,000	397	40
South			
Alabama	1,193	451	37
Arkansas	1,000	627	63
Florida	869	180	21
Mississippi	1,500	531	35
Oklahoma	1,700	450	26
South Carolina	350	153	44
Texas	3,000	1,206	60
Northeast, New York	1,000	550	55
Total		12,717	

Table 2. Preferred Policy on Production and Price Supports after 1990

Region and state	Keep present program	Mandatory controls	Decoupling	Eliminate all	Other	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	32	12	9	37	4	6
Illinois	39	8	9	38	3	3
Indiana	30	8	9	42	4	6
Iowa	38	10	14	30	5	3
Kansas	37	12	11	31	7	2
Michigan	31	7	5	46	3	8
Missouri	25	7	6	43	5	14
Nebraska	39	13	11	27	5	5
North Dakota	40	18	15	22	3	2
South Dakota	33	13	12	35	2	5
Wisconsin	25	23	5	36	3	8
West	21	7	5	45	15	7
Arizona	24	8	6	49	9	4
Idaho	23	5	4	52	13	3
Washington	20	7	5	44	16	8
South	35	10	7	32	5	11
Alabama	33	6	5	30	15	11
Arkansas	32	7	6	33	10	12
Florida	32	10	4	46	4	4
Mississippi	41	9	6	33	4	7
Oklahoma	31	18	12	26	11	2
South Carolina	40	17	9	24	10	0
Texas	37	9	6	33	4	11
Northeast, New York	19	10	4	37	5	25
Composite, 21 states	33	11	8	35	5	8

Note: Regional and 21-state composite responses are calculated using the number of farms in each state to give a representative response. States with large numbers of farms will have more influence in the final calculated figure.

Table 3. Preferences for Continuation of Target Prices

Region and state	Continue present levels	Raise	Lower	Phase out	Other	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	11	42	9	28	3	7
Illinois	13	40	13	27	2	5
Indiana	12	34	10	34	2	7
Iowa	15	42	7	31	3	2
Kansas	11	49	9	26	4	1
Michigan	7	41	7	36	3	6
Missouri	10	32	8	32	2	16
Nebraska	17	46	6	21	5	5
North Dakota	9	66	7	15	2	1
South Dakota	8	48	10	30	2	2
Wisconsin	11	42	9	26	3	9
West	7	22	9	41	2	16
Arizona	9	20	12	43	4	12
Idaho	9	25	8	40	3	15
Washington	7	22	9	40	5	17
South	14	35	10	28	3	10
Alabama	17	26	7	25	8	16
Arkansas	14	30	10	27	9	10
Florida	14	25	16	38	3	4
Mississippi	14	41	10	26	4	5
Oklahoma	9	50	7	23	2	9
South Carolina	15	46	7	17	3	12
Texas	14	33	10	30	0	13
Northeast, New York	7	29	8	27	4	25
Composite, 21 states	12	38	9	28	3	10

Table 4. Preferred Loan Rate Policy

Region and state	Average price	Raise rates	Eliminate loans	No response
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	35	19	36	10
Illinois	39	19	34	8
Indiana	30	17	43	10
Iowa	49	20	27	4
Kansas	39	25	33	3
Michigan	33	16	44	7
Missouri	31	11	39	19
Nebraska	37	27	29	7
North Dakota	38	36	22	4
South Dakota	40	24	34	2
Wisconsin	35	11	41	13
West	29	7	44	20
Arizona	33	8	44	15
Idaho	27	11	45	17
Washington	29	7	44	20
South	37	17	30	16
Alabama	37	11	27	25
Arkansas	43	8	28	21
Florida	42	8	46	4
Mississippi	40	19	31	10
Oklahoma	34	27	28	11
South Carolina	41	26	20	13
Texas	35	18	31	16
Northeast, New York	27	8	34	31
Composite, 21 states	36	18	34	12

Table 5. Preference for Continuing Paid Land Diversion

Region and state	Yes	No	Not sure	No reply
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	43	25	24	8
Illinois	51	20	27	2
Indiana	38	29	26	7
Iowa	60	18	21	1
Kansas	50	25	22	3
Michigan	45	26	21	8
Missouri	30	36	29	5
Nebraska	53	21	22	4
North Dakota	59	20	19	2
South Dakota	55	24	20	1
Wisconsin	38	27	29	6
West	29	32	28	11
Arizona	25	38	29	8
Idaho	27	34	29	10
Washington	30	31	28	11
South	41	29	24	6
Alabama	31	23	32	14
Arkansas	33	27	31	9
Florida	36	43	19	2
Mississippi	42	27	29	2
Oklahoma	54	21	16	9
South Carolina	50	21	22	7
Texas	39	33	23	5
Northeast, New York	29	28	23	20
Composite, 21 states	41	27	24	8

Table 6. Marketing Loan for Wheat, Feed Grains, and Soybeans

Region and state	Yes	No	Not sure	No reply
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	34	31	27	8
Illinois	37	33	27	3
Indiana	29	40	26	5
Iowa	39	31	28	2
Kansas	41	27	25	7
Michigan	34	41	18	7
Missouri	33	27	33	7
Nebraska	38	31	26	5
North Dakota	52	18	26	4
South Dakota	43	29	25	3
Wisconsin	22	36	34	8
West	17	38	33	12
Arizona	17	44	29	10
Idaho	17	40	32	11
Washington	17	37	33	13
South	41	28	24	7
Alabama	32	22	31	15
Arkansas	42	24	26	8
Florida	35	43	18	2
Mississippi	47	25	25	3
Oklahoma	45	24	20	11
South Carolina	38	25	29	8
Texas	42	29	23	6
Northeast, New York	16	27	34	23
Composite, 21 states	36	30	26	8

Table 7. Preferred Type of Acreage Bases

Region and state	Crop-specific bases	Crop acreage bases	Other	No reply
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	29	50	8	13
Illinois	38	49	6	7
Indiana	28	50	10	12
Iowa	39	46	11	4
Kansas	24	63	10	3
Michigan	35	46	9	10
Missouri	22	47	8	23
Nebraska	23	61	5	11
North Dakota	35	56	6	3
South Dakota	34	53	11	2
Wisconsin	37	43	7	13
West	26	33	16	25
Arizona	29	38	13	20
Idaho	29	33	12	26
Washington	25	32	17	26
South	33	46	9	12
Alabama	31	34	14	21
Arkansas	31	44	11	14
Florida	27	47	20	6
Mississippi	39	46	7	8
Oklahoma	31	55	5	9
South Carolina	47	34	6	13
Texas	33	46	7	14
Northeast, New York	31	32	10	27
Composite, 21 states	31	47	8	14

Table 8. Preference for Continuing Use of Payment-in-Kind (PIK) Certificates

Region and state	Yes	No	Not sure	No reply
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	35	37	21	8
Illinois	40	38	20	2
Indiana	31	36	25	8
Iowa	43	41	15	1
Kansas	40	42	16	2
Michigan	41	37	15	7
Missouri	28	29	36	7
Nebraska	46	35	13	6
North Dakota	37	51	10	2
South Dakota	31	55	12	2
Wisconsin	31	36	25	8
West	30	27	32	11
Arizona	33	31	26	11
Idaho	31	32	26	11
Washington	30	26	33	11
South	41	26	26	7
Alabama	32	15	38	15
Arkansas	37	20	33	10
Florida	43	32	22	3
Mississippi	39	23	34	4
Oklahoma	47	30	14	9
South Carolina	48	25	18	9
Texas	40	28	26	6
Northeast, New York	24	22	34	20
Composite, 21 states	37	32	24	7

Table 9. Preference for Continuing Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve

Region and state	Yes	No	Not sure	No reply
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	45	25	23	7
Illinois	44	25	28	3
Indiana	37	28	29	6
Iowa	58	21	20	1
Kansas	46	28	22	4
Michigan	45	31	17	7
Missouri	42	22	29	7
Nebraska	56	20	16	8
North Dakota	56	30	13	1
South Dakota	56	28	15	1
Wisconsin	41	23	30	6
West	35	22	31	12
Arizona	41	20	28	11
Idaho	32	27	29	12
Washington	34	23	31	12
South	47	20	26	7
Alabama	40	13	32	15
Arkansas	51	13	28	8
Florida	52	22	24	2
Mississippi	47	17	32	4
Oklahoma	43	29	20	8
South Carolina	50	18	24	8
Texas	49	19	26	6
Northeast, New York	32	14	34	20
Composite, 21 states	45	22	25	8

Table 10. Preferred Milk Price Policy

Region and state	Present program	Cost and quota	Phase out program	Secretary of Agriculture	Not sure	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	18	17	27	4	26	8
Illinois	22	14	23	4	31	6
Indiana	15	12	32	5	28	8
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	20	16	31	4	26	3
Michigan	20	22	29	4	16	9
Missouri	14	10	32	3	29	12
Nebraska	22	13	18	7	28	12
North Dakota	27	18	16	5	31	3
South Dakota	21	19	29	4	24	3
Wisconsin	14	33	25	2	19	7
West	12	11	42	3	21	11
Arizona	12	9	47	3	19	10
Idaho	14	10	42	2	18	14
Washington	11	12	41	3	21	12
South	15	13	31	5	23	13
Alabama	11	10	24	7	28	20
Arkansas	10	11	30	7	30	12
Florida	16	16	44	4	14	6
Mississippi	20	19	24	6	20	11
Oklahoma	17	15	28	3	26	11
South Carolina	18	16	21	3	31	11
Texas	15	12	32	6	21	14
Northeast, New York[a, b]	12	27	24	na	19	na
Composite, 19 states	17	15	29	5	25	9

[a] na: The question was not asked.

[b] Other responses included buyout program, 9%; cash income subsidies, 3%; and other, 6%.

Table 11. Preferred Discretion for the Secretary of Agriculture

Region and state	More	Less	No change	No reply
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	15	34	41	10
Illinois	17	27	49	7
Indiana	15	34	41	10
Iowa	18	30	49	3
Kansas	14	41	39	6
Michigan	14	37	42	7
Missouri	12	32	41	15
Nebraska	19	27	46	8
North Dakota	17	39	40	4
South Dakota	18	39	40	3
Wisconsin	13	42	35	10
West	14	32	37	17
Arizona	17	33	35	15
Idaho	13	36	34	17
Washington	13	32	37	18
South	16	33	41	10
Alabama	15	22	43	20
Arkansas	12	27	47	14
Florida	52	22	23	3
Mississippi	19	32	42	7
Oklahoma	15	43	32	10
South Carolina	17	32	40	11
Texas	15	33	43	9
Northeast, New York	14	32	30	24
Composite, 21 states	15	33	40	12

Table 12. Responses to the Statement that Future Farm Programs Should Give More Benefits to Farmers with Annual Sales Under $250,000

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	24	31	15	15	8	7
Illinois	17	39	17	17	5	5
Indiana	6	19	27	25	15	8
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	25	35	14	15	9	2
Michigan	26	28	10	17	11	8
Missouri	15	34	20	16	7	8
Nebraska	29	25	16	17	9	5
North Dakota	40	28	10	12	6	4
South Dakota	42	26	9	15	8	0
Wisconsin	25	32	17	12	7	7
West	18	27	17	18	10	10
Arizona	12	26	14	23	15	10
Idaho	21	26	15	14	9	15
Washington	19	28	18	16	9	10
South	19	32	16	17	9	8
Alabama	17	31	20	12	3	17
Arkansas	9	40	21	17	5	8
Florida	27	26	16	18	11	2
Mississippi	19	29	18	19	8	7
Oklahoma	21	30	10	18	11	10
South Carolina	25	29	11	17	8	10
Texas	18	32	16	18	10	6
Northeast, New York	22	29	18	15	5	11
Composite, 20 states	22	31	16	16	8	7

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 13. Response to the Statement that Government Programs Should Influence the Number and Size of Farms

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	7	22	25	25	13	8
Illinois	5	23	24	30	12	6
Indiana	5	15	21	20	12	27
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	7	22	24	27	17	3
Michigan	5	23	25	23	15	9
Missouri	3	25	29	24	10	9
Nebraska	13	20	23	26	13	5
North Dakota	13	28	21	24	11	3
South Dakota	11	23	23	22	18	3
Wisconsin	6	19	29	27	10	9
West	3	17	21	27	21	11
Arizona	5	18	17	29	20	11
Idaho	4	17	23	23	17	16
Washington	3	17	21	27	21	11
South	5	25	24	24	12	10
Alabama	6	23	27	19	6	19
Arkansas	2	31	26	25	7	9
Florida	6	22	21	33	15	3
Mississippi	8	29	23	20	11	9
Oklahoma	4	18	20	27	19	11
South Carolina	7	25	20	25	9	14
Texas	5	27	26	23	11	8
Northeast, New York	7	20	24	25	11	13
Composite, 20 states	6	23	24	25	13	9

Table 14. Proposed Ways to Reduce Farm Commodity Program Expenditures

Region and state	Percent cuts	Cut some more	More to small farms	Financial need only	Other	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	28	5	43	13	3	8
Illinois	33	7	40	11	3	6
Indiana	35	6	35	15	4	5
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	29	5	48	9	6	3
Michigan	31	6	37	12	3	11
Missouri	20	5	35	25	3	11
Nebraska	30	3	52	7	3	5
North Dakota	24	5	62	5	1	3
South Dakota	28	2	54	7	4	5
Wisconsin	26	7	47	10	3	7
West	33	9	28	16	3	11
Arizona	37	12	21	17	4	9
Idaho	31	7	31	16	3	12
Washington	31	8	30	16	3	12
South	30	8	30	19	4	9
Alabama	22	5	23	22	7	21
Arkansas	30	7	26	23	5	9
Florida	27	8	23	26	6	10
Mississippi	35	11	27	18	4	5
Oklahoma	41	7	33	5	3	11
South Carolina	31	6	34	16	3	10
Texas	27	9	32	21	3	8
Northeast, New York	6	36	18	6	1	33
Composite, 20 states	29	7	37	15	4	8

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 15. Opinions on Conservation Compliance to Obtain Program Benefits

Region and state	Yes	No	Not sure	No reply
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	59	23	14	4
Illinois	62	24	13	1
Indiana	58	22	14	6
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na
Kansas	61	26	11	2
Michigan	63	20	11	6
Missouri	59	19	17	5
Nebraska	53	29	17	1
North Dakota	51	37	11	1
South Dakota	70	21	8	1
Wisconsin	64	19	12	5
West	58	17	16	9
Arizona	57	24	10	9
Idaho	52	23	15	10
Washington	58	16	17	9
South	59	19	12	14
Alabama	53	15	16	16
Arkansas	62	13	18	7
Florida	72	17	8	3
Mississippi	61	20	15	4
Oklahoma	54	30	8	8
South Carolina	64	17	13	6
Texas	59	24	12	5
Northeast, New York	55	19	12	14
Composite, 20 states	60	22	13	5

Table 16. Preferred Future Conservation Reserve Policy

Region and state	Current 30 million acres	Expand to 45 million acres	Expand to 60 million acres	Eliminate program	Other	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	22	26	16	24	2	10
Illinois	22	31	20	18	3	6
Indiana	20	26	17	24	2	11
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	24	33	19	19	4	1
Michigan	17	29	17	28	2	7
Missouri	24	16	11	33	1	16
Nebraska	25	34	14	20	1	6
North Dakota	25	27	23	21	3	1
South Dakota	22	28	22	22	3	3
Wisconsin	27	22	15	28	0	8
West	15	18	10	36	4	17
Arizona	18	14	5	41	3	19
Idaho	19	15	11	36	2	17
Washington	14	19	11	35	4	17
South	24	21	13	29	4	9
Alabama	25	14	9	23	10	19
Arkansas	22	23	8	26	10	11
Florida	21	20	17	33	2	7
Mississippi	24	24	13	28	4	7
Oklahoma	17	28	23	21	2	9
South Carolina	30	25	17	19	1	8
Texas	26	19	9	33	3	10
Northeast, New York	23	14	8	28	4	23
Composite, 20 states	23	23	14	26	3	11

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 17. Preferred Ways to Improve Soil Conservation and Water Quality

Region and state	Regulate farm practices	Tax certain practices	Cost sharing	Modify cultural practices
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	17	19	43	25
Illinois	22	14	48	34
Indiana	13	20	44	26
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na
Kansas	12	20	58	19
Michigan	18	18	43	24
Missouri	16	14	38	23
Nebraska	16	22	44	30
North Dakota	18	19	39	30
South Dakota	18	28	46	26
Wisconsin	20	27	38	23
West	13	11	47	22
Arizona	11	10	53	16
Idaho	11	13	46	16
Washington	14	11	46	24
South	17	13	47	18
Alabama	24	11	34	19
Arkansas	15	16	34	18
Florida	19	21	51	13
Mississippi	24	12	42	25
Oklahoma	12	9	58	19
South Carolina	15	11	46	29
Texas	16	13	50	16
Northeast, New York	10	11	50	23
Composite, 20 states	16	16	45	22

Note: Respondents could select more than one answer.

Table 18. Responses to the Statement that the Government Should Regulate Land Uses to Reduce Water Pollution

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	20	41	13	12	5	9
Illinois	14	44	16	16	5	5
Indiana	21	37	14	15	6	7
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	21	45	13	13	7	1
Michigan	23	42	11	12	5	7
Missouri	16	42	15	13	5	9
Nebraska	31	44	15	5	2	3
North Dakota	22	39	14	14	8	3
South Dakota	28	48	9	11	4	0
Wisconsin	23	42	11	13	3	8
West	12	38	13	16	11	10
Arizona	14	30	15	17	14	10
Idaho	14	34	15	14	8	15
Washington	12	40	12	16	10	10
South	21	42	11	12	6	8
Alabama	19	42	11	8	2	18
Arkansas	13	54	12	9	3	9
Florida	33	43	9	10	3	2
Mississippi	27	39	13	8	4	9
Oklahoma	17	36	12	16	9	11
South Carolina	18	44	11	12	5	10
Texas	23	41	10	14	6	6
Northeast, New York	11	38	15	19	5	12
Composite, 20 states	20	41	12	13	5	9

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 19. Preferred Policy on Crop Insurance

Region and state	Present program	Disaster payments	Eliminate all programs	Mandatory crop insurance	Not sure	Other	No reply
			percentage of respondents				
North Central	33	21	10	13	14	2	7
Illinois	42	16	9	12	16	1	4
Indiana	34	22	14	9	14	2	5
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	36	26	11	12	12	3	0
Michigan	27	30	13	14	9	2	5
Missouri	26	19	15	10	19	1	10
Nebraska	37	21	5	21	12	4	0
North Dakota	51	13	4	20	7	4	1
South Dakota	38	25	9	16	8	2	2
Wisconsin	29	27	11	12	15	1	5
West	34	16	10	13	16	1	10
Arizona	26	11	16	19	17	1	10
Idaho	30	19	13	8	16	2	12
Washington	35	17	8	11	16	2	11
South	32	19	12	14	14	9	0
Alabama	28	10	7	15	21	2	17
Arkansas	28	15	10	20	15	2	10
Florida	32	13	16	20	15	1	3
Mississippi	31	21	14	14	14	2	4
Oklahoma	33	27	9	11	10	2	8
South Carolina	33	25	11	9	16	1	7
Texas	35	19	12	14	12	2	6
Northeast, New York	32	30	5	8	12	3	10
Composite, 20 states	33	21	11	13	14	2	6

Table 20. Preferred Policy on Payment Limitation

Region and state	Increase the limit	Make no change	Decrease the limit	Eliminate the limit	Other	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	7	44	31	10	4	4
Illinois	10	50	24	12	2	2
Indiana	7	37	30	15	5	5
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	7	46	33	7	6	1
Michigan	7	42	32	7	7	5
Missouri	6	36	29	15	3	1
Nebraska	7	52	30	7	3	1
North Dakota	7	56	30	4	2	1
South Dakota	5	44	39	6	5	1
Wisconsin	4	41	38	6	5	6
West	11	33	21	17	7	11
Arizona	11	28	18	24	8	11
Idaho	6	32	32	11	6	13
Washington	10	34	23	15	7	11
South	8	39	25	15	5	8
Alabama	6	35	22	11	9	17
Arkansas	8	34	19	18	9	12
Florida	5	36	35	16	6	2
Mississippi	8	42	25	16	4	5
Oklahoma	12	40	21	15	4	8
South Carolina	7	48	22	13	2	8
Texas	8	40	26	14	5	7
Northeast, New York	14	39	31	8	5	3
Composite, 20 states	8	41	28	12	5	6

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 21. Preferred Policy on the Government's Loaning Money to Farmers with Limited Capital

Region and state	Yes	No	Not sure	No reply
		percentage of respondents		
North Central	33	38	18	11
Illinois	38	36	22	4
Indiana	28	44	20	8
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na
Kansas	39	35	18	8
Michigan	26	50	12	12
Missouri	33	37	21	9
Nebraska	42	33	15	10
North Dakota	47	30	20	3
South Dakota	45	36	17	2
Wisconsin	26	47	19	8
West	36	34	17	13
Arizona	34	38	16	12
Idaho	34	34	16	16
Washington	37	33	18	12
South	43	33	15	9
Alabama	42	26	17	15
Arkansas	50	27	16	7
Florida	44	41	14	2
Mississippi	42	36	15	7
Oklahoma	40	35	11	14
South Carolina	30	39	18	13
Texas	44	32	16	8
Northeast, New York	36	36	18	10
Composite, 20 states	38	36	17	9

Table 22. Responses to the Proposal that Food Assistance Programs Should Be Increased to Meet Needs of Those Eligible

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	12	33	18	22	10	5
Illinois	9	36	20	24	6	5
Indiana	11	31	15	24	12	7
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	12	31	22	23	10	2
Michigan	12	31	17	20	13	7
Missouri	8	31	16	26	11	8
Nebraska	14	30	21	21	11	3
North Dakota	16	35	19	19	9	2
South Dakota	15	34	16	24	10	1
Wisconsin	19	36	16	15	7	7
West	8	28	18	23	13	10
Arizona	7	22	21	22	18	10
Idaho	9	22	17	24	13	15
Washington	8	29	17	24	12	10
South	9	26	14	28	15	8
Alabama	8	27	13	22	12	18
Arkansas	5	38	15	24	8	10
Florida	15	24	11	30	18	2
Mississippi	8	19	14	25	25	9
Oklahoma	13	24	18	22	12	11
South Carolina	6	17	17	36	14	10
Texas	7	25	13	32	17	6
Northeast, New York	16	28	19	18	8	11
Composite, 20 states	11	30	16	24	12	7

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 23. Responses to the Proposal that the Government Should Increase Funding for Rural Development Programs

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	19	43	16	11	4	7
Illinois	13	51	18	13	2	3
Indiana	15	38	20	15	6	6
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	21	42	16	13	6	2
Michigan	15	40	17	14	7	7
Missouri	15	48	14	12	3	8
Nebraska	27	39	20	6	4	4
North Dakota	33	40	14	8	3	2
South Dakota	26	47	10	10	5	2
Wisconsin	20	41	19	9	4	7
West	11	35	18	17	9	10
Arizona	16	29	17	18	12	8
Idaho	13	30	20	15	7	15
Washington	9	36	19	17	9	10
South	16	41	12	16	6	9
Alabama	15	40	12	12	4	17
Arkansas	10	52	12	14	3	9
Florida	23	35	12	19	9	2
Mississippi	20	33	12	18	9	8
Oklahoma	19	37	15	14	5	10
South Carolina	16	36	11	19	6	12
Texas	15	42	12	17	7	7
Northeast, New York	15	35	16	15	8	11
Composite, 20 states	17	41	15	13	5	9

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 24. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Negotiate Worldwide Trade-Barrier Reductions

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	24	46	16	5	1	8
Illinois	24	54	11	5	1	5
Indiana	33	40	13	4	1	9
Iowa	41	41	14	2	1	1
Kansas	25	49	17	5	2	2
Michigan	30	44	12	4	2	8
Missouri	17	47	19	8	2	7
Nebraska	23	52	16	3	0	6
North Dakota	25	48	16	6	2	3
South Dakota	28	51	10	6	1	4
Wisconsin	21	40	25	6	1	7
West	33	45	9	3	1	9
Arizona	35	41	9	3	1	11
Idaho	24	41	15	4	1	15
Washington	32	46	9	3	1	9
South	26	45	13	6	1	9
Alabama	22	35	17	6	1	19
Arkansas	12	57	15	5	1	10
Florida	31	42	13	7	2	5
Mississippi	28	40	16	8	1	7
Oklahoma	33	43	8	3	2	11
South Carolina	27	52	7	3	1	10
Texas	26	46	12	6	1	9
Northeast, New York	20	42	19	4	1	14
Composite, 21 states	25	46	14	5	1	9

Table 25. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Rely More on Bilateral Agreements

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	9	49	23	8	1	10
Illinois	8	55	20	11	1	5
Indiana	11	47	24	8	1	9
Iowa	12	46	28	9	2	3
Kansas	12	50	27	7	1	3
Michigan	12	46	22	9	1	10
Missouri	6	48	26	10	1	9
Nebraska	8	52	25	5	0	10
North Dakota	13	53	22	8	1	3
South Dakota	14	52	21	8	1	4
Wisconsin	9	48	27	4	1	11
West	10	44	22	11	1	12
Arizona	14	42	19	10	2	13
Idaho	11	43	21	7	1	17
Washington	9	44	23	12	1	11
South	12	50	19	7	1	11
Alabama	8	42	21	7	1	21
Arkansas	5	57	20	8	0	10
Florida	11	48	22	10	1	6
Mississippi	14	50	17	7	2	10
Oklahoma	13	45	20	6	2	14
South Carolina	10	47	25	5	1	12
Texas	14	51	17	7	1	10
Northeast, New York	9	44	24	9	1	13
Composite, 21 states	10	49	22	8	1	10

Table 26. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Negotiate Domestic Farm Subsidy Reductions in Major Importing and Exporting Countries

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	11	42	29	8	2	8
Illinois	10	47	29	7	2	5
Indiana	14	44	24	7	2	9
Iowa	19	42	28	7	2	2
Kansas	11	42	32	9	2	4
Michigan	13	41	24	9	2	11
Missouri	9	41	33	8	1	9
Nebraska	8	44	28	8	3	9
North Dakota	11	43	29	10	2	5
South Dakota	12	51	23	6	2	6
Wisconsin	11	34	35	7	2	11
West	17	42	21	7	1	12
Arizona	21	40	22	3	2	12
Idaho	13	37	25	6	1	18
Washington	16	42	21	8	1	12
South	13	39	25	8	2	13
Alabama	9	33	29	6	1	22
Arkansas	5	49	26	9	1	10
Florida	17	39	25	8	2	9
Mississippi	14	39	27	8	2	10
Oklahoma	15	35	24	7	4	15
South Carolina	9	45	24	9	0	13
Texas	15	39	24	9	2	11
Northeast, New York	12	35	32	7	1	13
Composite, 21 states	12	41	27	8	2	10

Table 27. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Join with Other Major Exporting Countries to Establish Production and Marketing Controls

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	7	35	22	21	5	10
Illinois	4	30	24	27	7	8
Indiana	7	29	24	22	8	10
Iowa	10	35	25	21	7	2
Kansas	8	39	22	21	6	4
Michigan	6	33	21	23	7	10
Missouri	6	37	22	22	3	10
Nebraska	8	34	25	19	5	9
North Dakota	12	41	20	20	4	3
South Dakota	10	41	17	21	5	6
Wisconsin	8	39	26	13	5	9
West	5	30	21	23	9	12
Arizona	8	29	15	24	11	13
Idaho	5	29	22	20	7	17
Washington	5	30	22	23	8	12
South	9	40	17	16	5	13
Alabama	6	34	19	14	6	21
Arkansas	4	50	17	16	2	11
Florida	8	35	18	20	6	13
Mississippi	15	37	20	14	4	10
Oklahoma	11	29	19	19	8	14
South Carolina	6	48	19	12	3	12
Texas	10	44	15	16	5	10
Northeast, New York	9	32	23	21	4	11
Composite, 21 states	8	37	20	19	5	11

Table 28. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Provide More Funds for Food Aid to Hungry Nations

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	9	31	22	24	7	7
Illinois	7	36	23	25	3	6
Indiana	10	34	19	20	9	8
Iowa	15	38	24	16	5	2
Kansas	7	28	25	27	10	3
Michigan	11	30	19	24	7	9
Missouri	4	27	24	29	9	7
Nebraska	11	30	17	27	7	8
North Dakota	13	36	22	20	7	2
South Dakota	10	33	24	20	7	6
Wisconsin	13	32	23	17	6	9
West	7	29	23	23	7	11
Arizona	8	22	24	27	8	11
Idaho	7	27	21	22	8	15
Washington	7	31	22	22	7	11
South	6	29	19	26	9	11
Alabama	6	24	20	23	6	20
Arkansas	4	35	17	28	7	9
Florida	5	29	17	27	9	13
Mississippi	10	28	18	21	14	9
Oklahoma	10	28	20	23	8	11
South Carolina	7	36	21	17	7	12
Texas	5	28	19	28	10	10
Northeast, New York	12	28	23	19	6	12
Composite, 21 states	8	30	21	24	8	9

Table 29. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Encourage Additional Farmer-Financed Foreign Market Development Programs

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	7	38	25	17	6	7
Illinois	7	44	21	15	6	7
Indiana	9	42	19	16	5	9
Iowa	11	42	27	13	4	3
Kansas	8	39	27	16	7	3
Michigan	7	37	23	16	8	9
Missouri	6	39	25	20	4	6
Nebraska	5	33	34	14	5	9
North Dakota	9	38	26	18	6	3
South Dakota	9	44	21	17	5	4
Wisconsin	7	30	30	19	6	8
West	10	45	17	11	5	12
Arizona	15	40	14	14	5	12
Idaho	10	36	20	13	4	17
Washington	9	47	18	10	4	12
South	8	39	19	16	6	12
Alabama	6	33	22	11	5	24
Arkansas	4	40	21	22	3	10
Florida	7	39	18	17	8	11
Mississippi	10	35	22	16	8	9
Oklahoma	11	39	20	13	5	12
South Carolina	9	40	21	11	7	12
Texas	9	41	18	17	5	10
Northeast, New York	8	27	25	20	7	13
Composite, 21 states	8	38	23	17	6	8

Table 30. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Continue the Export Enhancement Program and Other Export Subsidies

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	7	41	30	10	3	9
Illinois	5	51	26	10	2	6
Indiana	6	40	32	8	3	11
Iowa	10	40	34	10	3	3
Kansas	11	44	27	11	3	4
Michigan	6	40	27	13	5	9
Missouri	3	38	36	11	2	10
Nebraska	7	38	34	7	3	11
North Dakota	19	48	20	8	2	3
South Dakota	10	41	28	12	4	5
Wisconsin	6	35	37	9	4	9
West	10	38	27	10	3	12
Arizona	11	34	27	11	4	13
Idaho	8	34	29	8	3	18
Washington	10	39	28	9	2	12
South	8	40	29	8	3	12
Alabama	3	35	31	7	3	22
Arkansas	3	43	32	11	1	10
Florida	8	29	33	13	6	11
Mississippi	11	40	27	8	3	11
Oklahoma	17	41	21	7	3	11
South Carolina	12	46	24	5	1	12
Texas	7	42	30	8	3	10
Northeast, New York	6	31	36	9	3	15
Composite, 21 states	8	40	29	9	3	11

Table 31. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Reduce Its Agricultural Import Barriers to Encourage Trade

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	6	30	22	25	8	9
Illinois	4	40	23	23	6	4
Indiana	6	31	22	25	6	10
Iowa	8	29	30	25	7	1
Kansas	7	28	25	29	8	3
Michigan	7	27	20	30	7	9
Missouri	5	36	22	22	7	8
Nebraska	5	30	22	25	11	7
North Dakota	8	26	24	29	9	4
South Dakota	9	26	19	29	12	5
Wisconsin	5	22	26	28	10	9
West	6	26	27	21	7	13
Arizona	10	27	20	23	9	11
Idaho	7	20	21	27	8	17
Washington	6	26	29	21	6	12
South	7	31	19	23	9	11
Alabama	7	29	18	19	6	21
Arkansas	4	42	32	11	1	10
Florida	6	34	20	22	10	8
Mississippi	10	36	20	16	8	10
Oklahoma	9	22	20	25	11	13
South Carolina	7	34	19	18	9	13
Texas	7	31	18	26	9	9
Northeast, New York	6	18	24	31	9	12
Composite, 21 states	6	30	21	24	8	11

Table 32. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Assist Developing Countries Increase Their Agricultural Productivity and Trade Potential

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	3	27	23	27	10	10
Illinois	2	30	22	29	10	7
Indiana	2	28	21	25	13	11
Iowa	5	30	29	24	9	3
Kansas	4	30	26	27	1	3
Michigan	5	32	17	28	9	9
Missouri	3	34	21	25	7	10
Nebraska	2	20	26	31	13	8
North Dakota	4	19	26	32	14	5
South Dakota	2	20	22	33	16	7
Wisconsin	4	29	26	22	9	10
West	4	27	23	25	9	12
Arizona	5	27	15	29	12	12
Idaho	4	24	21	24	10	17
Washington	4	28	25	24	8	11
South	5	32	18	24	11	10
Alabama	4	33	19	17	6	21
Arkansas	4	42	18	20	6	10
Florida	6	37	16	24	10	7
Mississippi	7	28	18	21	13	13
Oklahoma	4	21	17	28	16	14
South Carolina	3	30	20	22	12	13
Texas	5	34	17	24	10	10
Northeast, New York	5	38	21	19	5	12
Composite, 21 states	4	30	21	25	10	10

Table 33. Responses to the Proposal that the United States Should Give Selected Low Income Countries Preferred Entry to the U.S. Agricultural Market

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	3	29	28	24	7	9
Illinois	2	35	29	24	5	5
Indiana	3	27	32	21	7	10
Iowa	6	35	36	18	4	1
Kansas	4	35	30	22	6	3
Michigan	5	27	24	28	7	9
Missouri	2	27	27	22	7	9
Nebraska	4	32	29	22	7	6
North Dakota	7	35	31	19	4	4
South Dakota	3	33	27	22	9	6
Wisconsin	2	22	32	24	11	9
West	3	21	29	27	9	11
Arizona	3	21	26	25	15	10
Idaho	4	20	28	23	9	16
Washington	3	21	30	28	7	11
South	4	29	23	24	10	10
Alabama	2	26	26	19	7	20
Arkansas	1	37	23	21	7	11
Florida	7	22	23	29	11	8
Mississippi	5	24	24	21	16	10
Oklahoma	6	23	24	23	11	13
South Carolina	3	31	24	17	11	14
Texas	3	31	22	25	10	9
Northeast, New York	4	23	28	25	8	12
Composite, 21 states	3	28	26	24	8	11

Table 34. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Cutting Every Budget Item by a Set Percentage

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	17	38	15	18	4	8
Illinois	12	42	19	20	2	5
Indiana	17	36	16	19	3	9
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	20	41	15	17	3	4
Michigan	22	34	16	16	4	8
Missouri	14	40	19	17	3	7
Nebraska	13	48	10	16	4	9
North Dakota	15	39	17	20	5	4
South Dakota	20	41	12	17	4	6
Wisconsin	15	36	16	21	4	8
West	22	29	13	23	4	9
Arizona	27	28	11	22	3	9
Idaho	18	32	15	17	3	15
Washington	21	30	13	23	4	9
South	19	37	13	18	4	9
Alabama	13	33	17	16	3	18
Arkansas	9	47	15	18	2	9
Florida	20	33	13	18	4	12
Mississippi	19	37	14	18	5	7
Oklahoma	22	33	12	17	4	12
South Carolina	26	32	11	18	1	12
Texas	20	38	13	18	5	6
Northeast, New York[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Composite, 19 states	17	36	14	17	3	13

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 35. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Reducing the Defense Budget

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	19	36	13	19	5	8
Illinois	16	43	14	22	2	3
Indiana	20	37	15	15	5	8
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	26	41	12	13	4	4
Michigan	22	36	11	18	5	8
Missouri	13	36	15	24	5	7
Nebraska	22	40	13	15	5	5
North Dakota	32	38	12	11	3	4
South Dakota	29	39	10	14	4	4
Wisconsin	30	39	12	10	2	7
West	23	38	12	16	3	8
Arizona	18	34	12	21	6	9
Idaho	18	30	14	18	5	15
Washington	24	39	12	15	3	7
South	14	34	12	24	7	9
Alabama	8	30	15	22	9	16
Arkansas	10	40	12	24	6	8
Florida	16	27	11	23	12	11
Mississippi	15	32	12	23	10	8
Oklahoma	19	33	10	23	4	11
South Carolina	17	32	12	21	7	11
Texas	15	35	13	25	6	6
Northeast, New York[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Composite, 19 states	18	35	12	19	5	11

Table 36. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Reducing Social Programs, Excluding Social Security

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	13	35	16	21	6	9
Illinois	9	37	18	25	7	4
Indiana	16	34	18	19	5	8
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	15	35	19	21	6	4
Michigan	19	33	12	22	6	8
Missouri	14	35	16	24	5	6
Nebraska	13	45	16	16	8	2
North Dakota	11	33	15	27	10	4
South Dakota	15	33	14	26	7	5
Wisconsin	15	32	15	23	8	7
West	18	35	15	18	6	8
Arizona	26	37	11	14	4	8
Idaho	17	31	13	17	7	15
Washington	16	35	16	19	7	7
South	18	39	10	18	6	9
Alabama	14	34	12	17	6	17
Arkansas	11	48	11	19	3	8
Florida	24	35	6	13	11	11
Mississippi	26	35	8	15	9	7
Oklahoma	18	36	12	16	6	12
South Carolina	19	41	12	12	7	9
Texas	18	40	10	20	6	6
Northeast, New York[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Composite, 19 states	16	37	14	20	6	7

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 37. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Reducing Social Security Payments

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	3	7	10	45	27	8
Illinois	3	8	12	52	20	5
Indiana	4	7	12	44	26	7
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	4	8	12	45	28	3
Michigan	3	7	9	42	32	7
Missouri	2	4	6	53	28	7
Nebraska	3	9	15	38	31	4
North Dakota	3	8	11	46	29	3
South Dakota	4	7	10	45	28	6
Wisconsin	3	6	11	45	28	7
West	5	10	11	43	22	9
Arizona	6	8	12	41	22	11
Idaho	3	7	12	40	22	16
Washington	5	10	11	44	21	9
South	3	6	7	41	34	9
Alabama	2	5	4	41	30	18
Arkansas	2	4	5	44	37	8
Florida	1	6	10	41	33	10
Mississippi	2	3	6	32	50	7
Oklahoma	4	10	11	42	21	12
South Carolina	3	11	7	39	29	11
Texas	3	5	6	42	38	6
Northeast, New York[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Composite, 19 states	3	7	9	43	30	8

Table 38. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Reducing Farm Program Expenditures

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	9	32	17	26	8	8
Illinois	6	36	18	27	8	5
Indiana	14	35	17	21	5	8
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	9	33	17	27	10	4
Michigan	11	37	12	24	9	7
Missouri	10	39	14	27	4	6
Nebraska	8	30	21	30	7	4
North Dakota	6	22	17	33	18	4
South Dakota	9	32	15	29	10	5
Wisconsin	9	26	21	26	11	7
West	14	40	14	18	5	9
Arizona	17	38	12	19	5	9
Idaho	13	38	14	15	5	15
Washington	13	40	14	18	6	9
South	10	33	13	25	10	9
Alabama	8	30	15	23	5	19
Arkansas	6	42	13	25	6	8
Florida	13	42	13	15	7	10
Mississippi	12	30	13	24	13	8
Oklahoma	9	27	12	27	12	13
South Carolina	11	22	14	29	13	11
Texas	10	32	13	27	11	7
Northeast, New York[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Composite, 19 states	10	33	15	25	9	8

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 39. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Raising Taxes

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	2	13	12	36	28	9
Illinois	1	16	14	39	25	5
Indiana	3	13	15	35	27	7
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	3	13	13	36	32	3
Michigan	4	12	11	32	35	6
Missouri	1	12	12	43	26	6
Nebraska	3	16	10	38	31	2
North Dakota	2	16	14	37	29	2
South Dakota	3	16	13	35	27	6
Wisconsin	4	12	13	31	33	7
West						
Arizona	3	9	11	30	37	10
Idaho	2	6	11	33	33	15
Washington	2	15	12	32	30	9
South	2	11	10	34	35	8
Alabama	1	12	9	30	32	16
Arkansas	1	14	8	38	31	8
Florida	2	12	10	33	33	10
Mississippi	3	11	10	28	41	7
Oklahoma	2	8	12	32	34	12
South Carolina	3	6	14	36	31	10
Texas	3	12	8	35	36	6
Northeast, New York[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Composite, 19 states	2	12	11	35	31	9

Table 40. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Increasing the Collection of Taxes Due the Federal Government

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	27	44	9	8	5	7
Illinois	27	52	9	6	4	2
Indiana	27	44	8	9	4	8
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	29	44	9	9	5	4
Michigan	25	42	10	9	7	7
Missouri	8	36	24	19	5	8
Nebraska	32	46	8	6	5	3
North Dakota	38	40	8	6	5	3
South Dakota	32	45	8	8	4	3
Wisconsin	27	37	13	9	7	7
West	25	46	11	6	4	8
Arizona	30	41	8	8	5	8
Idaho	22	40	11	8	5	14
Washington	24	47	12	6	4	7
South	28	42	9	8	5	8
Alabama	25	38	10	8	3	16
Arkansas	30	48	7	5	2	8
Florida	31	37	11	9	5	7
Mississippi	34	35	11	8	5	7
Oklahoma	23	42	10	7	7	11
South Carolina	30	41	11	4	5	9
Texas	29	44	8	8	5	6
Northeast, New York[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Composite, 19 states	27	43	9	8	5	8

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 41. Responses to the Proposal that the Federal Deficit Should Be Reduced by Increasing User Fees for Government Services

Region and state	Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	10	35	24	17	5	9
Illinois	9	38	25	19	4	5
Indiana	12	37	21	16	6	8
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	12	38	26	15	5	4
Michigan	10	31	24	19	8	8
Missouri	8	36	24	19	5	8
Nebraska	7	40	26	16	6	5
North Dakota	9	33	28	19	7	4
South Dakota	13	39	23	16	6	3
Wisconsin	14	32	26	15	5	8
West	9	30	24	20	9	8
Arizona	9	30	21	19	14	8
Idaho	8	28	22	19	8	15
Washington	9	31	24	20	8	8
South	11	34	22	17	7	9
Alabama	8	29	24	17	4	18
Arkansas	13	39	20	19	2	7
Florida	16	38	17	14	6	9
Mississippi	13	27	26	18	7	9
Oklahoma	11	32	20	17	9	11
South Carolina	12	28	24	16	9	12
Texas	11	35	24	17	7	6
Northeast, New York[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Composite, 19 states	10	35	23	17	6	9

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 42. Farm Program Participation in 1988

Region and state	Wheat	Feed grain	Cotton	Rice	Conservation Reserve	Disaster	Other
				percentage of respondents			
North Central	33	55	1	0	13	40	3
Illinois	21	74	0	0	11	51	2
Indiana	26	60	0	0	9	33	4
Iowa	0	87	0	0	20	59	0
Kansas	75	64	0	0	23	25	3
Michigan	39	54	0	0	9	41	3
Missouri	16	25	1	0	10	21	2
Nebraska	41	67	0	0	16	30	4
North Dakota	88	73	0	0	23	82	5
South Dakota	50	73	0	0	18	58	4
Wisconsin	4	47	0	0	10	63	4
West	27	19	6	0	10	3	3
Arizona	11	7	35	0	5	1	5
Idaho	33	26	1	0	7	13	5
Washington	31	21	0	0	12	4	3
South	26	19	12	3	11	18	7
Alabama	6	12	5	0	9	16	7
Arkansas	14	10	4	15	5	17	5
Florida	7	15	1	0	9	8	12
Mississippi	16	15	21	5	16	20	4
Oklahoma	73	26	18	1	16	26	4
South Carolina	42	52	17	0	19	8	0
Texas	19	18	14	1	9	17	9
Northeast, New York	9	23	0	0	4	14	5
Composite, 21 states	30	39	5	1	12	30	5

Table 43. Age of Respondents

Region and state	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65 and over	No reply
			percentage of respondents		
North Central	11	30	37	20	2
Illinois	12	31	38	18	1
Indiana	13	27	38	20	1
Iowa	8	30	46	14	2
Kansas	10	24	37	28	1
Michigan	7	29	34	24	6
Missouri	7	31	37	22	3
Nebraska	12	30	39	20	0
North Dakota	19	39	31	11	0
South Dakota	16	33	35	14	2
Wisconsin	13	28	41	17	1
West	7	32	41	18	2
Arizona	7	22	35	24	2
Idaho	9	29	38	20	4
Washington	7	33	42	16	2
South	5	23	38	29	5
Alabama	4	21	36	31	8
Arkansas	6	29	41	20	4
Florida	4	24	41	29	2
Mississippi	5	24	39	31	1
Oklahoma	6	31	37	17	9
South Carolina	4	21	34	36	5
Texas	6	18	39	35	2
Northeast, New York	9	33	35	17	6
Composite, 21 states	9	27	38	24	2

Table 44. Last Year of School Completed by Respondents

Region and state	Grade school	Some high school	High school graduate	Some college or technical school	College graduate	No reply
				percentage of respondents		
North Central	10	9	40	24	15	2
Illinois	8	11	44	20	16	1
Indiana	6	7	46	22	16	2
Iowa	8	5	48	21	14	4
Kansas	7	7	37	30	18	1
Michigan	11	8	38	23	14	6
Missouri	12	12	41	23	22	2
Nebraska	7	5	41	23	22	2
North Dakota	13	10	27	32	17	1
South Dakota	13	7	36	27	17	0
Wisconsin	15	11	39	24	9	2
West	3	6	26	32	31	2
Arizona	4	8	23	28	34	3
Idaho	5	9	30	29	23	4
Washington	3	6	26	33	31	1
South	7	11	30	21	26	5
Alabama	7	15	31	22	16	9
Arkansas	7	15	37	19	17	5
Florida	8	12	27	27	23	3
Mississippi	11	11	30	21	25	2
Oklahoma	4	5	26	19	36	10
South Carolina	7	10	23	23	33	4
Texas	7	11	31	21	28	2
Northeast, New York	6	9	37	16	27	5
Composite, 21 states	8	10	35	23	21	3

Table 45. Annual Gross Sales of Respondents

Region and state	Under $40,000	$40,000-99,999	$100,000-249,999	$250,000-499,999	$500,000 and over	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	43	27	21	5	1	3
Illinois	33	28	28	6	2	3
Indiana	49	23	16	6	2	4
Iowa[a]	28	30	28	11	3	
Kansas	44	28	20	4	1	3
Michigan	51	19	16	5	1	8
Missouri	66	20	7	1	0	6
Nebraska	26	30	35	7	2	0
North Dakota	29	36	29	4	1	1
South Dakota	27	37	26	7	2	1
Wisconsin	39	33	22	3	1	2
West	28	21	26	13	9	3
Arizona	28	17	16	14	20	5
Idaho	48	18	18	6	4	6
Washington	28	22	28	12	7	3
South	55	17	15	5	2	6
Alabama	14	65	10	7	3	1
Arkansas	59	15	13	4	2	7
Florida	74	10	8	3	1	4
Mississippi	61	12	12	6	4	5
Oklahoma	16	25	31	12	5	11
South Carolina	45	22	15	8	5	5
Texas	62	16	13	4	1	4
Northeast, New York	28	29	24	9	3	7
Composite, 20 states	47	23	19	5	2	4

[a] Data for Iowa based on 1987 survey.

Table 46. Family Income from Off-Farm Employment

Region and state	Under $10,000	$10,000-19,999	$20,000-40,000	Over $40,000	No reply
			percentage of respondents		
North Central	28	16	16	7	33
Illinois	28	16	17	6	33
Indiana	21	13	24	11	31
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	28	18	15	6	33
Michigan	36	23	13	18	10
Missouri	21	22	20	8	29
Nebraska	30	13	11	5	41
North Dakota	37	16	7	2	38
South Dakota	45	13	11	2	29
Wisconsin	31	13	13	5	38
West	21	12	17	8	42
Arizona	16	12	16	10	46
Idaho	25	14	17	6	38
Washington	25	12	17	8	38
South	21	11	11	4	50
Alabama	17	12	25	12	34
Arkansas	20	17	18	8	37
Florida	16	17	25	15	27
Mississippi	23	15	21	9	32
Oklahoma	23	10	9	8	50
South Carolina	21	17	18	13	31
Texas	23	12	19	14	32
Northeast, New York	24	11	11	4	50
Composite, 20 states	25	14	17	9	35

[a] na: The question was not asked.

Table 47. Most Important Source of Cash Receipts in 1988

Region and state	Grain	Hogs, beef, or sheep	Dairy	Grain and livestock	Other	No reply
			percentage of respondents			
North Central	37	21	11	16	10	5
Illinois	60	14	6	11	8	1
Indiana	55	18	5	11	8	4
Iowa[a]	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kansas	40	17	2	32	7	2
Michigan[b]	39	21	6	11	12	11
Missouri	18	41	4	15	14	8
Nebraska	47	17	2	24	6	4
North Dakota[c]	50	13	4	24	8	1
South Dakota[d]	27	36	8	20	6	3
Wisconsin	9	12	57	6	13	3
West	21	20	10	4	43	2
Arizona	4	38	6	0	45	7
Idaho	18	24	9	10	31	8
Washington	24	16	11	5	42	2
South	13	44	4	11	11	17
Alabama[e]	5	47	1	11	24	14
Arkansas[f]	20	43	3	7	21	9
Florida	3	42	2	11	28	14
Mississippi[g]	15	39	5	13	23	6
Oklahoma	21	22	2	30	16	9
South Carolina	23	30	1	12	32	2
Texas	11	59	3	5	17	5
Northeast, New York	11	5	52	4	20	8
Composite, 20 states	26	30	9	13	16	6

[a] na: The question was not asked.
[b] 4% sheep reported combined with hogs and beef
[c] 2% orchards combined with "other"
[d] 5% hogs and 2% sheep reported combined in hogs, beef, or sheep column
[e] 1% sheep and 1% hogs combined with hogs, beef, or sheep
[f] 2% hogs and 1% sheep combined with hogs, beef, or sheep
[g] 1% sheep combined with hogs, beef, or sheep

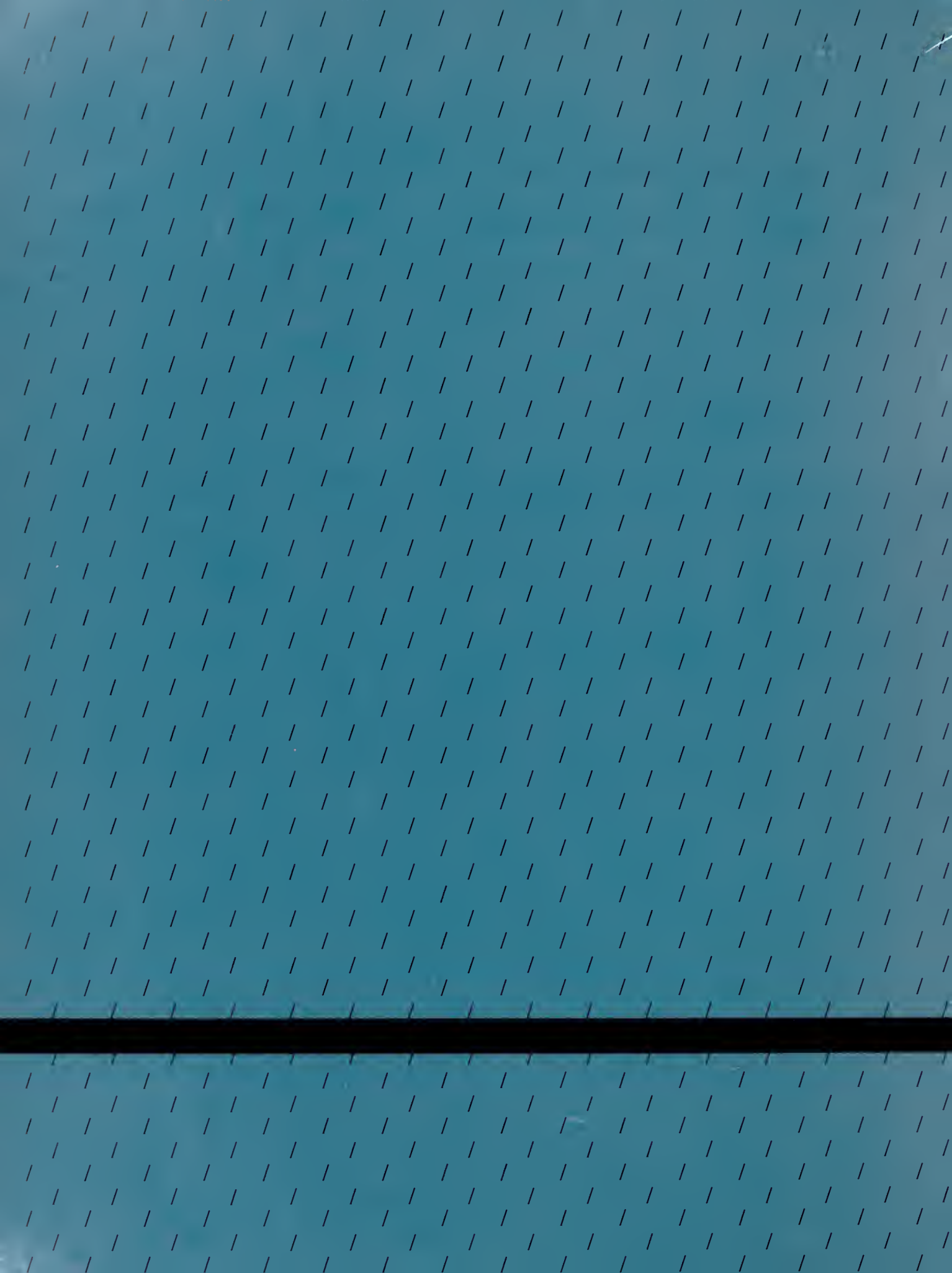
Table 48. Respondents' Membership in Farm and Commodity Organizations

Region and state	American Agricultural Movement	Farm Bureau	Farmers Union	Grange	National Farmers Organization	Cattlemen's Association	Corn Growers Association
				percentage of respondents			
North Central	1	39	11	2	2	9	6
Illinois	1	73	2	1	1	5	14
Indiana	0	57	5	1	1	8	5
Iowa	1	66	2	1	2	20	18
Kansas	2	47	10	2	2	17	2
Michigan	1	49	2	2	3	3	3
Missouri	0	15	1	1	1	9	4
Nebraska	1	21	12	1	3	10	13
North Dakota	1	26	65	0	3	13	4
South Dakota	1	16	28	0	4	12	10
Wisconsin	1	30	18	0	3	5	3
West	1	27	24	1	1	20	0
Arizona	0	61	0	0	0	34	0
Idaho	1	30	1	6	1	17	1
Washington	1	20	1	30	1	17	0
South	2	49	5	1	0	27	1
Alabama	1	30	0	1	0	42	3
Arkansas	1	59	1	0	1	23	0
Florida	1	43	0	0	1	23	0
Mississippi	1	68	1	0	1	27	1
Oklahoma	2	41	20	1	0	37	2
South Carolina	1	72	0	2	0	29	1
Texas	2	49	3	1	0	22	2
Northeast, New York	0	47	1	8	2	0	0
Composite, 21 states	1	43	8	2	1	16	4

Table 48. (continued) Respondents' Membership in Farm and Commodity Organizations

Region and state	Cotton Growers	Sorghum Growers	Milk Producers	Pork Producers	Soybean Growers Association	Wheat Growers Association	Labor union	Other
				percentage of respondents				
North Central	0	1	9	7	9	6	5	4
Illinois	0	0	5	12	20	1	7	2
Indiana	0	0	4	9	7	0	9	6
Iowa	0	0	5	26	27	0	0	0
Kansas	0	3	3	2	4	14	3	4
Michigan	0	1	14	7	10	2	10	3
Missouri	0	1	3	5	8	1	6	2
Nebraska	0	3	3	10	7	9	2	3
North Dakota	0	9	4	2	4	26	3	7
South Dakota	0	0	6	9	12	13	1	7
Wisconsin	0	0	35	5	2	0	3	5
West	5	1	8	1	0	18	4	19
Arizona	30	5	6	1	0	0	0	5
Idaho	0	1	7	1	0	15	4	14
Washington	0	0	9	1	0	21	4	22
South	3	3	2	2	3	9	3	7
Alabama	2	0	1	1	2	0	8	4
Arkansas	2	1	2	1	8	2	3	4
Florida	1	0	2	2	3	1	2	9
Mississippi	8	0	3	3	12	1	3	6
Oklahoma	10	4	2	2	5	36	1	7
South Carolina	8	1	2	6	0	0	1	0
Texas	1	6	2	1	1	7	2	8
Northeast, New York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80[a]
Composite, 21 states	2	2	6	4	6	7	4	8

[a] For New York, other memberships included Agway, Eastern Artificial Insemination Association, RCMA, regional and local dairy cooperatives, and other marketing cooperatives.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
3 0112 027989661